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THE HIT

Alan Jackson on the femrock revolution

GAZINE

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weekend



WEEKEND MONE How election fever is hitting your pocket

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both

PLUS INSIDE: CAR 97, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS, THE DIRECTORY FOR THE BEST JEDA

Offer of compensation or job back as warpath across Europe ends at Frankfurt HQ







8.30, KENSINGTON: Ms Horlick heads for the office 9.45, FINSBURY CIRCUS: A brief unscheduled meeting with Martyn Drain, head of personnel at Morgan Grenfell 2.30, FRANKFURT: Ms Horlick calls the bank HQ

City bank superwoman wins the day

employer Morgan Greniell, yester-day staged a dramatic showdown at the bank's headquarters in

Frankfurt in an effort to win back. her job.

Ms Horlick, 35, who angrity denied allegations that she had tried to posch staff for a rival company, spent more than an hour in discussions with Deutsche Bank,

Morgan Grenfell's parent. She emerged victorious, claiming that a lawyer and the head of the Human Resouces Department had listened to her story and

Ms Horlick said that the company

She said: "I was very happy with what they have said. I was extremely pleased that they were prepared to listen to my side." Earlier she bad accused Morgan Grenfell of

acting like indge and jury.

Sho, added: "These were very
very reasonable people: I feel they
wanted to see a fair outcome. I am very grateful to them for doing that and I am a lot happier than I was this morning. It has restored my

faith in human nature." It was the culmination of an extraordinary day in which she

ment or compensation, around her former office in London

A posse of Fleet Street reporters, photogaphers and TV camera crew then escorted her to Frankfurt but the confrontation erupted into farce when she failed to emerge from the offices to brief journalists. A security guard told the waiting pack that she had slipped out of a bek door and gone to the airport. She was later tracked down to a coffee bar at Terminal 2 where she said that she and the bank had agreed a

form of words. However she said she was "very unhappy" with a statement issued

had led a procession of journalists by Morgan Grenfell in London around her former office in London which said that the Deutsche Bank

claimed that she had been brutally treated by a "machiavellian" regime. She also believed that senior figures had felt she devoted too much time to her children, one of whom has leukaemia.

This extraordinary day began when Ms Horlick decided during a sleepless night that she would have to take drastic action to save her reputation. On Tuesday she had been suspended from her new job as managing director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

She got up early to feed her

seven-month old baby Antonia and prepare for a showdown with chief where she has worked sirice 1991. At 8.15, she appeared at the door

of her £1.3 million mansion in Kensington holding Antonia and declared that she had decided she was going to fight a David and

Goliath battle "I am going to feed my baby, get changed and then I am going to Morgan Grenfell," she told reporters. "And you are coming with me." She said that her husband Tim. who works for Salomon Brothers, had left for work an hour before and knew nothing of her plan: "He

Farewell, old

Fifteen minutes later, dressed in a black business suit, she left home o her red Alfa Romeo saying that the company had a fight on its hands. At Finsbury Circus where she arrived at 9.30, security men were clearly not expecting her.

She swept through the front door and made for the staircase - "not and made for the starcase — not the lift, they will be able to block them off — to go to her third floor office. There were gasps of aston-ishment as she led reporters and photographers in a style which one member of staff likened to the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

The staff at Morgan Grenfell

omces trailing a procession of journalists.

Rows of suited City workers looked up aghast from their screens, as, head held high, their former boss brushed aside frantic security guards on her way to the chief executive's office.

"Lay a finger on me and I will call the police," she told security. "Lay a finger on them," she added, pointing to the press, "and I will still call the police. Some of her former colleagues shouted encouragement. Well done Nicola, Continued on page 2, col 5

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Millennium plan rescued by deal

The Millennium Exhibition has been saved after an agreement was struck between the Government, the Labour Pary and the Millennium Commission. The deal came after another

to you fee

day of talks between Michael Heseltine and Tony Blair, who devised a formula which the commission is expected to approve today _____Page 2

Gingrich faces \$100,000 penalty

Newt Gingrich is to be ordered to pay a penalty of at least \$100,000 (£60,000) after the special counsel investigating ethics charges against the House Speaker released a highly condemnatory reportto prompt Mr Gingrich to

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



First British war crimes trial ends before it begins

ill than he was before

solicitor, said that the jury had made the right decision. But Mr Serafinowicz regretted that he would not now have the opportunity to clear his

The prosecution had said

that the murder counts were specimen charges, designed to reflect a much greater scale of involvement in the murder of

as many as 3,000 Jews in the

During an eight-day hear-

ing the court heard from

doctors who agreed that

Seratinowicz was suffering

from dementia, probably the

progressive and incurable

Alzheimer's disease, to such

an extent that he was unfit to

After the jury unanimously found he was "under a disability" and therefore unfit to

stand trial, Sir Derek Spencer,

QC, the Solicitor-General,

said the prosecution had given

"careful consideration to the

options available". Counsel

had decided to invite the Attorney-General to offer a

nolle prosequi - an unwill-

ingness to prosecute in the

case - and he had accepted.

OBITUARIES ______25
SIMON JENKINS _____22

Mr Serafinowicz sat with

Mir area of Belarus.

be tried.

BRITAIN'S first Nazi war crimes trial collapsed before it began yesterday, costing the taxpayer £4 million and casting doubt over any future

prosecutions.

An Old Bailey jury decided that Szymon Serafinowicz, an 86-year-old retired carpenter from Banstead in Surrey, was unfit to stand trial after hearing evidence that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He had faced three specimen charges of murdering unknown Jews in his native Belarus between November 1941 and March 1942 while the country was under

the Nazis. The verdict adds to the cost of unmasking alleged war criminals living in this country, currently standing at £15 million and with five suspects still under investigation.

As he left the Old Bailey, Mr Serafinowicz's son Kazimierz said: "Justice has been done. They brought out all the big guns against my father - the Solicitor-General was called in to prosecute. But in the end the jury saw how crazy it was. He did not kill Jews and

anyone who says he did is either porty or a liar." Helping his frail father to a waiting car, he added: "All we want to do now is go home to Banstead and be left alone. This has made him even more



Fosset: likely to be forced down in India

Balloon may be grounded by Gaddafi

FROM QUENTIN LETTS

THE AMERICAN hot air balloonist Steve Fossett may be forced to abandon his attempt to fly around the world after Libya refused him permission to overfly.

Mr Fossett's new route over Niger, Chad and Egypt will use so much propane fuel that he will almost certainly have to put down his craft, Solo Spirit, in India. The cable to Mr Fossett's Chicago mission control from

Colonel Gaddafi's authorities in Tripoli read: "We regret/advise cannot issue permission for your balloon." Richard Branson, whose own attempt to fly round the world in a balloon ended in failure earlier this month, said he understood decision was due to the Muslim festi-

fruit, we're sad to see you go HAIL! old friend. You have

been bruised, squashed, twist-ed, peeled, pushed and pum-

meled. You have brought succour to millions of rugby players who have gnawed at you ravenously, sucked you, spat you out, thrown you to the ground and even trodden you into the sodden turf. We are sad to say, old fruit.

your days are numbered. We hope you will take this on the peel. You are about to be kicked into touch.

In case we do not get another chance, we'll say: Farewell, drange, and thanks." You may have been a humble Jaffa to the local greengrocer, but to us you were the cat's pyjamas.

Watch this afternoon's international matches and after 40 minutes the referee will blow his whistle for half-time. For five minutes the players will gather round their captains and coaches until the referee blows again and another 40 minutes of play commences. Such is the very order of things, like the setting of the sun and the rising of the

Now, though, comes news from Dublin, where the lawmakers have been meeting, that when a new season starts in the southern hemisphere in March, the five-minute interval is to be doubled and

players may leave the pitch. No more will they be seen to be putting a chunk of orange into their mouths and sucking it dry before picking at their teeth to remove its last shards and taking a glug, glug, glug of restorative drink. From March, in games at the highest level at least, all this and more will take place behind

closed doors.

How sad. Another essential part of the fabric of the game is changed. Perhaps, then, this is the moment to raise a point. When did the orange assume this enormous role? Were there oranges at Twickenham when it was known as Billy Williams's cabbage patch? And what about at Cardiff Arms Park? Perhaps one of those tribal anthems sung so lustily in Cardiff was as much a paean to oranges as it was to the men in red shirts, who always seemed to win, in those days at any rate.

And why, whether it was in Invercargill or Inverness, was it always oranges that were brought out at half-time, never satsumas, mandarins or tangerines, kiwi fruit or avocado

So farewell old round one, you did us proud; and farewell, too, to half-time. What will they think of next? Chang-ing the shape of the ball

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his head bowed and showed no emotion as the jury decided Continued on page 3, col. I val of Ramadan.

BUSINESS NEWS......27-30 **WEEKEND MONEY..31-43**

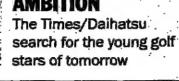
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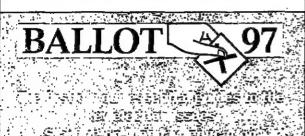
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Late deal saves Millennium Exhibition

By Damian Whitworth and Andrew Pierce

THE Millennium Exhibition was saved after weeks of uncertainty when an agreement was struck late last night between the Government, the Labour Party and the Millennium Commission.

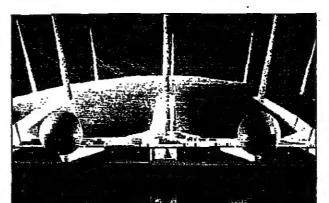
The deal came after another 24 hours of negotiations between Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. and Tony Blair. They came up with an agreed formula which the Millennium Commission is expected to approve today.

A spokesman for Mr Heseltine, who has invested much of his personal authority in the project, confirmed that the massive project was back on schedule. We are delighted that the exhibition is going ahead," he said. "I you will find all three sides have got what they

wanted." However, as uncertainty continued over whether the troubled project could be saved, Labour and the Tories blamed each other for the hold-up. A spokesman for Mr Blair said: "Discussions are continuing. Mr Blair and Mr Heseltine are confident that an announcement will made tomorrow."

However, even as negotia-tions continued over Labour's insistence on being able to review the project if it wins the election, a further setback emerged. The designers of the proposed dome, the centrepiece of the £800 million exhibition, admitted that they had no idea how much it would

Imagination, a design com-pany, disclosed that it had come up with 34 designs for



One of the designs for the Millennium Dome,

to match an equal number of different budgets. The latest price tag was E580 million.

Pam Williams of Imagination said: "We don't know what the final figure will be. It

the dome, which will be twice is not a question for us. It is an the size of Wembley Stadium, issue for the Millennium people who are still talking about it."

As the Millennium Commission studied the form of words agreed by Labour and said that the Commission had to be satisfied that the project could be delivered under the terms sought by both sides.

Officials from the Government, the Labour Party and the Commission spent the day continuing to thrash out the arguments. The Commission has said that the project is in danger of collapse unless agreement is reached immediately because time is running out for work contracts to be

Tony Blair has been told that the scheme would be "dead in the water" without his support. Financial backers would be scared off for fear that a Labour government would scrap the celebrations if they were not deemed financially viable.

Mr Heseltine, engaged in a delicate balancing act with

careful not to criticise the Opposition. John Major, any. ious to ensure the Government is not blamed if the deal collapses, was not so re-strained. He said on BBC local radio yesterday: "The Labour Party has had its representative on the discussions and debate over this project right from the outset. It's very surprising at the last moment that they have failed to understand what is going on and created this difficulty."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said that agreement could have been reached on Wednesday if the Government had accepted Labour's demands. He denied that Labour had ever threatened to cancel the project, but said it wanted to make sure there was no massive funding gap.

Orthodox

Jews fear

split over

Reformist

memorial

BY RUTH GLEDHALL

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Rabbi is facing increasing divisions within the Jewish community over

his decision to attend a memo-

rial meeting for the late Rubbi

Conservatives in the Ortho-

dox community are calling for Dr Jonathan Sacks to pull out

Hugo Gryn

Horlick hires City spin doctors to handle her offensive

Bank embarks on campaign to calm pensions clients

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

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ents expressed concern at the

seemingly endless catalogue

of high profile disasters that

have befallen the City invest-

ment house in the past six months.One cited the Peter

EXECUTIVES at Morgan

resignation. Many Morgan Grenfell investors are pension fund trust-ees. who have a legal and moral duty to safeguard billions of pounds on behalf of millions of pensioners.

strong team looked after £18 billion of UK pensions fund business out of total assets managed by the firm of £70

During the past five years Mrs Horlick and her former boss Keith Percy, who left the City investment house in the wake of the Peter Young affair, have produced above average returns for their clients. According to the latest index published by WM, the performance monitoring agency, Morgan Grenfell's funds out-

performed all its pension fund rivals last year by 2.5 per cent. One of the larger clients is the Railways Pension Trustee Company, which has £1.25 billion invested with the firm, and looks after the interests of 330,000 members. David Adams, the chief executive of the railways pension company said yesterday: "In view of the recent events we shall of course be keeping an extra

happening.
We shall be watching to see whether the previous good performance can be main-tained and whether staff remain at their posts. We also want to know if there will be any changes to the way in which the portfolio is Other Morgan Grenfell cli-

Robert Smith, chief execu-



Security staff eject photographers who followed Mrs Horlick to Morgan Grenfell's City offices

Horlick from her post on but to follow her words, rein-Tuesday. He said: "We are completely satisfied that we with a succession of damaging have acted properly

throughout." Meanwhile, Mrs Hortick has hired Anthony Cardew, fast-becoming the Max Clif-ford of financial public rela-tions. He wasted little time in turning a rapidly deteriorat-ing situation to his client's

A strategically placed interview in the Financial Times volleys. Morgan Grenfell was in turn obliged to "leak" details of an internal memo to staff, in its desire to recapture the upper ground. Other cli-ents with whom he works include Eurotunnel and Brit-

ish Aerospace. never acted for Nicola Horlick, the former Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Executive, as reported yesterday. Her collection yesterday. Her solicitors

of the meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews because Rabbi Gryn, although a nationally respected and well-loved figure, as well as a survivor of the Holocaust, was a member of the progressive Reform movement.
While Dr Sacks has no turisdiction over progressive lewry, some Orthodox Jews fear his presence at the meeting will give authority to the Reform movement. Dr Sacks

> a president of the Council of Christians and Jews, an org-anisation to which Rabbi Gryn was deeply committed.
> Other speakers at the meetother speakers at the meeting next month will include the Right Rev Richard Harries. Bishop of Oxford and chairman of the council, and Rabbi Tony Bayfield, chief executive of the Reform Move

is attending in his capacity as

ment and Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. The Chief Rabbi has been criticised by Dayan Yisroel Lichtenstein, head of the Rederation of Synagogues Beth Din, a conservative body, who said there was "widespread dismay" at his decision to honour the Reform Jewish leader. "There is a lot of dismay in the Orthodox community that by attending, the Chief Rabbi is giving a certain amount of respect to Hugo

Gryn's position as a rabbi." The protest has angered liberal Jews. Ned Temko. editor of the Jewish Chronide, said: "Surely Rabbi Sacks, as one Jew to another, a friend remembering a friend, can and should openly pay tribute to Rabbi Gryn. He was a remarkable figure of inspiration, a man who somehow survived Auschwitz both in

body and spirit." Dr Sacks said yesterday There were profound regious differences between us but it has been my principle: ... that we work together regardless of religious differ-

ences on all matters affecting our common humanity and certainly in commemorating the Holocaust. It was on that basis that we worked together in life and it is on that basis that I pay tribute to him after his death. As Jew, as a human being. I can do no less."

Leading article, page 23

Grenfell embarked on a charm offensive yesterday to reassure anxious City and pension fund clients in the wake of the Horlick suspenand subsequent

Mrs Horlick and her 30-

Young case in which the former manager of two Euro-pean funds allegedly breached City rules on the way in which the funds were managed leav-ing Morgan Grenfell's parent company. Deutsche Bank, nursing a potential compensa-tion and costs bill of some £400 million. Mr Young, who was dismissed last September for "gross misconduct" is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation.

In another, separate, incident fund manager was suspended and subsequently dismissed for breaking Morgan Grenfell rules on dealing in shares on his own account. Other high profile pension funds clients of Morgan Grenfell include a number of local authorities such as Westminster City Council and Merton in south London.

tive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, said yesterday that the firm stood by its actions in suspending Mrs was all it took to put Mrs Horlick back in control. Rival newspapers had little option

Superwoman wins the day

Continued from page 1 good for you", they said as she made for the boss' door.

But Mr Smith was not there. After a quick conversation with the personnel manager, Martyn Drain, she led her entourage around the corner to the bank's HQ to confront the chairman, Michael Dobson. From the fover in Bishops-

gate, she ran upstairs to say she would wait precisely 20 minutes. "After that I am going straight to Frankfurt." Within 15 minutes, it was

clear that there was to be no meeting and so, at 10.30, she headed back to Kensington to pick up her passport.

At 12.30 Ms Horlick was checking in at Heathrow and the I o'clock Lufthansa flight was surrounded by representatives from most national newspapers and ITN. In business class, she sipped sparkling water and told the 20 journalists that the charges against her were "completely trumped up".

"I am probably completely mad for doing this, but I have come this far and I have got to

At Frankfurt German journalists were told: "I am here because I have been constructively dismissed and I want to be reinstated."

Then taxi to the Deutsche Bank HQ and Ms Horlick walked into the glass-fronted building surrounded now by at least 30 journalists. Her Heinz Schaefer, head of security, shook her hand, saying: "Ms Horlick, would you like to come up to a meeting

He agreed that a Germanspeaking representative from Reuters could go with her to the fifth floor room. Earlier. Ms Horlick said

that Morgan Grenfell had paid no heed to the five and a half years "devoted service" she had given. She said management were well aware that for the past eight years her eldest child, Georgina, had been fighting acute leukaemia. Recently Georgina had suffered a relapse and was undergoing chemotherapy at Great Ormond Street

Hospital. "All my spare time goes on caring for children." she said. I am simply not in a position where I could be thinking about starting all over again in a new job and to be



Bank's German headquarters agreed to an inquiry

poaching staff for it. I need to feel secure. "I have a daughter who is sick, I have a huge mortgage and I owe a lot of money in tax due to a bonus I received last year. I need to be around the team that I love and trust. All I want is my job She said that the family had

suffered "real trauma" over Georgina's illness. During her recent relapse the child also fell victim to the so-called flesh eating virus necrotising fascinis. Although she was now recovering she needed care and Ms Horlick's team at Morgan had frequently stepped in to cover for her when she had to dash to the hospital at short notice.

Ms Horlick, an Oxford graduate, laughed off suggessuperwoman managing to hold down a £1 million job and bring up five children, she said that her last baby, Antonia seven months, had been conceived in a desperate effort to find a matching bone

marrow donor for Georgina. "It has been very, very hard for me but I have given everything to this job. I spent all night worrying about whether I should speak out or not but all I have is my professional reputation so I have to defend it. The company wanted me gagged but now I have gone for construcrive dismissal I am free to say

what I want."

Ms Horlick added that, should she win her fight she would not be able to work with her two immediate seniors Robert Smith and Michael Dobson: "It would be a case of me or them." Ms Horlick said she was

flabbergasted when on Tuesday she was told about the allegations against her. She said: "I was pulled out of a business meeting and told I was suspended. I was taken to my desk, told to clear it and then escorted out. At that point they didn't even tell me what the allegations were. I discovered that later from a letter.." Ms Horlick said she later found out that that same information had been on the work screens for most of the day. She said the company was obsessed with public rela-tions and had called Brunswick PR even before consulting lawyers.

She added: "I come from the old fashioned school which believes that people in the same company work together. It used to be a completely unpolitical environment where people thought they were there for life, but now it's

all back-stabbing.
"I think one of the things they couldn't take about me is that I am very straight and I won't stab people in the back. What I say is what I mean and my team know they can trust

If this company had sat down and thought about me as a human being with the life I have and not the person in the bloody promotion picture they put out of me, they would realise my family have had a hard time."

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Nazis' police chief 'took part in mass murders'

A PASSIONATE hatred of Soviet Russia drove Szymon Scrafinowicz into the arms of the Germans when they invaded his native Belarus in 1941. He was one of the first to join a police unit set up by his country's new masters. He was to change sides before the was to change suces octore the war ended, enlisting with the Allies after falling into their hands while lighting in

In 1944 Mr Serafinowicz, "a tough and resourceful man escaped death in Dachau. He had been arrested when hisloyalty to the Nazis was questioned. Only the intervention of a German officer who remembered his past service

He came to this country at the end of the war. His credentials for citizenship appeared in order: he had served with the Allies in Italy and Egypt, but had not seen active

According to the Crown, Mr Serafinowicz, now 86, had served his Nazi masters with diligence and loyalty and was soon promoted to command a unit not far from Mir, the largest town in the area where he lived. In the early winter of 1941 he was promoted to district commander, gaining responsibility for the entire

According to John Nutting. QC, prosecuting counsel at committal proceedings in Dorking, Surrey, Mr Sera-finowicz's battalion was responsible for carrying out "Jewish Actions" — the liquidation of everyone in the ghettos around Mir.

When the Germans marched into the Mir region more him were two or three police-than 3,000 Jews lived there, men. I could not hear what



Scrafmowicz served both the Nazis and the Allies

Just over a year later none was

The Crown case is that, on the occasions when three of these Jewish actions took place, Mr Serafinowicz was present as a senior policeman and participated in the killings." Mr Nutting said.

This is not a case in which identity is in issue. Mr Serafinowicz acknowledged to the Metropolitan Police in interviews in: 1993 that he is the man about whom the witnesses speak. But he demied to police that he had played any part in the killing A Jewish survivor remem-

bered seeing Mr Serafinowicz and some other policemen on horseback chasing Jews one Sunday afternoon in the winter of 1941. "About 20 to 25 Jews were running as fast as they could and one or two minutes later I saw Seratinowicz on a horse ... and with

they were saying but they were shooting into the air and chasing the Jews. Some of the Jews fell down and the police rode over them with horses and trampled them."

According to the Crown, the measure of Mr Serafinowicz's authority in the military hierarchy was revealed in the town of Turets, where massacres took place in the autumn and early winter of 1941. Ten Jewish youths were summoned to the police station to dig graves on the evening of October 19. They were ordered to make one large enough for four people.

As they were preparing the site Mr Seratinowicz stood near by. They moved to a window of the police station. Mr Nutting said: "Serafinowicz and a German began firing through the window. Screams from the victims could be heard." On November 3, 1941, the

Jews of Turets were instructed

main square. A roll call at which Mr Serafinowicz was present was conducted by local policemen. About 100 Jews were chosen for forced labour while a further 600 people were taken to the cemetery and shot with machine guns. "As the senior Belarus policeman present, Mr Serafinowicz must be regarded as the principal particpant in the massacre of the Turets Jews which took place that day," Mr Nutting said. On November 9, 1941.

another massacre was to take place in Mir itself. German troops arrived in force accompanied by units of the local police. The "full horror" of what transpired was recalled by Lev Abramovsky, who was lo at the time, "As the Germans arrived in Mir early that morning I was woken by my mother and told to run away. We and other Jews ran in the direction of the Jewish cemetery. My brother and I hid in a loft from where we saw our mother, father, brother, sister and brother-in-law shot by the police, who then smashed my two young nephews' heads against the gravestones."

Mr Abramovsky and his brother were discovered in their hiding place and herded into a column of Jews being marched to a sandpit. At the pit, police and German troops used heavy machineguns to murder men, women and children in batches of 20 to 50.

Mr Abramovsky watched his surviving brother being lined up at the edge of the pit and then shot. When his own turn came, he fell forward into the pit a split second before the bullets hit his companions and scrambled out after nightfall.

Letters, page 23

with a

C&G

mortgage.



Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, outside the Old Bailey yesterday, where his trial for war crimes collapsed

Why ministers were reluctant to take action

17 names was handed to Margaret Thatcher by a Nazi war crimes investigator working for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. The men named were British citizens leading unremarkable lives.

Mrs Thatcher, who as prime minister had recently returned from a trip to Israel. was furious and demanded action. However, successive Home Secretaries were to remain lukewarm until a detailed report had been prepared. The evidence was so appalling that not even the most cynical politician could fail to be moved.

Nevertheless, legislation paving the way for what was to have been Britain's first war crimes trial aroused much political opposition when it was introduced six years ago. Sir Edward Heath spoke of show trials: "Lots of people will rejoice in it and that will be very damaging to this

A number of senior Tories joined in, fearing for justice when both accused and accusers were well into the autumn of their years. Ivor Stanbrook. at the time Tory MP for Orpington, said it would be impossible "to do justice to those few people on the basis of allegations made against them in respect of things done many thousands of miles away 50 years ago."

However, the Government pressed ahead, stung by re-ports that Britain had unwittingly provided a safe haven for as many as 100 war criminals. When the War Crimes Bill was passed. David Waddington, the Home Secretary at the time, said: "Certain

people, who may have been guilty of the most bestial crimes, still live in Britain. I don't think we can forget about it."

A war crimes inquiry con-ducted by Sir Thomas Hetherington, a former Director of Public Prosecutions, and William Chalmers, a former Crown Agent for Scotland, had by mid-1990 identified three individuals. Among them was Serafinowicz. A Scotland Yard unit was set up to gather evidence against them and investigate 75 other

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Keenly aware that time was of the essence, the Government made provision that

THE POLITICIANS

committal proceedings could be waived. However, as critics pointed out at the time, no sensible lawyer would allow his client to be rushed. Thus committal proceedings in the case of Serafinowicz, which began this time last year, were

to run over three months. The case drifted. A trial which should have begun once the lower court decided there was a case to answer was put off for months.

At the same time there were repeated rumours that the Scotland Yard unit was to be wound up: the investigations were too costly while both suspects and witnesses were getting older or dying.

As one bitter insider said: " doubt there will ever be a full trial now of anyone in this country suspected of Nazi war crimes. Perhaps the critics were right: it was all too long

Brave Jew lived with enemy to warn victims

elapsed since the last meeting between Mr Serafinowicz and a Jew who had lived under his roof masquerading as a Chris-

tian to avoid execution. converted to Catholicism and took holy orders at a monastery in Haifa, Israel, also joined his landlord's police unit and became a staff officer while secretly working to undermine their murderous

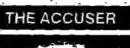
Facing Mr Serafinowicz across the court room, he told an extraordinary tale of courage and determination. Mr Rufeisen, now 74, told too how he listened as his landlord ordered the murder and torture of civilians.

Mr Rufeisen fled to Belarussia from Poland to escape persecution by the Nazis and arrived in the town of Turets in early November 1941 with a letter of reference from a veterinary surgeon to a relative in the town.

His talent for languages was recognised by the Ger-mans soon after his arrival. While appearing to be loyal and enthusiastic, he was in fact sending warning mes-sages to ghenos and villages in the region earmarked for Jewish Action".

Mr Rufeisen remembered Mr Serafinowicz as "a tall handsome man with the innate intelligence of the detective. He had an education ... he was completely loyal to the Germans.

"He gave orders directly to the policemen in the field and did not delegate authority to others under his command. He acted as intelligence officer both for his own benefit and on behalf of the Germans and would gather information from local policemen, especially through the commanders of other police stations in the quarters. Mr Serafinowicz could have been shot!"





Oswold Rufeisen, 74, saw torture and murder

region. He also had his own informants in the surrounding

Asked by investigators if Mr Seratingwicz had killed people as well as ordering his men to do so, the monk said: "In most cases he participated person-ally. No doubt."

However, his landlord had apparently turned a deaf ear when suspicions were voiced that Mr Rufeisen might be Jewish. "Mr Serafinowicz explained and justified my pos-ition to his wife Jadwiga and to others. But I do not consider that he protected me," he said

Asked to describe the position of Jews in the community before the German invasion, Mr Rufeisen remembered that there was "a kind of interdependence". He said the local population had not been anti-

Mr Rufeisen was compelled to witness executions at close

had not been present when Wehrmacht troops had sought revenge in a village after the killing of a comrade, butMr Rufeisen had gone as a translator.

"L called the elders of the village. I said 'Sorry but there's such anger that somebody must die. He said he had advised the

elders to find two people, working in the fields, that the village would like to get rid of. Minutes later two men were brought forward.

One was a forester, who had denounced a Pole to the Germans. The second was a 17year-old mentallyhandicapped boy.

"They were ordered to lie on their faces, then the commander said this this was not enough to calm the fury of the soldiers. He called a man of about 22 or 23 from the group of men. He was ordered also to lie down, but suddenly he

rose and began to run.
"He was hit after 40 to 50 metres and some of the soldiers ran after him and killed him with their bayonets where he was lying. Then the commander gave the order to kill

the two."
Reflecting on his time in
Mir, he said: "Neither I, nor Serafinowicz were, I believe professional murderers. On that day it was necessary for some people to die, in order to save many more. I acted according to my conscience. "

Asked if Mr Serafinowicz could, had he wanted, have stopped the killings between November 1941 and August 1942, Mr Rufeisen said: "No. he could not."

Interviewed before his committal, Serafimowicz was bitter at what he called his betraval at the hands of a man he had fed and sheltered. "He was a Jew and I didn't know. I

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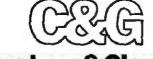
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Trial folds before it starts

Continued from page 1 he should not face trial. The defence had always maintained that Serafinowicz was innocent of the charges, which were brought under the 1991 War Crimes Act.

William Clegg, QC, his counsel, said there was evidence that Serafinowicz had saved many from execution who might otherwise have faced a firing squad for col-

laborating with partisans. He told jurors, who considered their verdict for 34 hours, that they must decide whether Serafinowicz was "the best actor this country has produced in recent times" or "a sick and dying old man". The Crown insisted that

Serafinowicz would be able to cope with a trial. The verdict is a embarrass-

ment for Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who has to authorise war crimes prosecutions. It is also a major setback for the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mike Whine, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: The British Jewish community has every confidence in the fairness of our criminal justice system and we hope that it may still prove possible to bring to trial others suspected

The decision to pursue alleged war criminals in this country came when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister. In face of opposition from many senior politicians, she took a personal interest in the

Lord Tebbit, the former Coneservative minister, said

last night: Today's events have only confirmed me in my belief that this whole affair has been a waste of the time of Parliament, the police and the judiciary and a colossal waste of public money which would have been better spent on caring for the people who suffered as a result of the Second World War."

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat legal affairs spokesman, who lost relatives to the Nazis in Poland, said: "Those of use who fought for the War Crimes Act always recognised that it was fairly unlikely that there would be many prosecutions, let alone convictions. But we believed, and continue to believe, that it's morally and legally right for there to be a War Crimes Act for the trial of suitable persons," he said.

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Police hunting for missing Zoe Evans arrest her parents

THE mother and stepfather of Zoe Evans were arrested yesterday as police continued to search for traces of the miss-

ing nine-year-old.

Last night Wiltshire police would only confirm they were holding a local man and woman. The arrests came after police visited their home in army married quarters in Warminster barracks.

Zoe disappeared last Saturday. Her parents saw her on Friday night when she was checked sleeping in bed. But she was seen the following morning by a schoolboy neighbour at a park neighbour at a park.

The arrests were announced yesterday by Detective Superintendent Colin Dixon, head of Wiltshire CID. A planned press conference was sudden-ly cancelled in the morning because the case had reached a crucial stage". Police had been intending to launch a fresh national appeal for help to find the child

Mr Dixon said later that a



Zoe Evans: missing

couple were being held but added that a body had not been found and police still wanted help from people who may have seen the girl, who is of Asian appearance:

Earlier this week Paula Evans, 28, made a television appeal at a press conference which was cut short when she was overcome with emotion and ran sobbing from the room. Her husband, Private Miles Evans, 22, a driver for the Royal Logistics Corps,

be 10 on January 27 and her parents said that a puppy dog would be waiting for her at

home as an early present.

Flanked by Mr Dixon and another officer, Mr Evans appealed to his stepdaughter: be, we want you to come home. We all love you. You are

just going to get lots of cuddles and hugs."

On Wednesday police found bloodstained clothing during searches of the Warminster area. One item was a girl's, another a male's. Police are awaiting forensic analysis of

Police were also trying to find a blond youth who was seen with the girl at the supermarket on Saturday aftermoon. He was also believed to have followed her along a footpath to fields.

When Zoe was last seen, she was wearing a dark top and a black skirt. She had no coat and only £2 in cash. The Evanses married last August. Zoe's natural father lives in



Out of key: an apology by Brian Harvey, second right, failed to placate his colleagues

Ecstasy outburst is swansong for East 17 singer

THE lead singer of the pop group East 17 has been sacked by his colleagues because of his praise for the drug Ecstasy. The three other members of the band, who said they did not take illegal substances. decided to act the day after Brian Harvey, 22. spoke out in

a radio interview. Harvey apologised shortly after the interview, but Tony Mortimer, Terry Coldwell and John Hendy said that his "unacceptable behaviour" had

driven them to drop him. A statement from their management company said: The remaining three members of East 17 under no circumstances can condone the taking of Ecstasy or any other illegal substances. They want it known that these remarks made by Brian Harvey do not reflect their views."

In an interview with LBC in London on Thursday morning. Harvey said Ecstasy was a safe drug which made users "better people". He said that it "increases love" and boasted that he had once taken 12 Ecstasy pills in one night. His

comments attracted an angry response from the Prime Minister and Paul Betts, whose 18year-old daughter Leah died after taking Ecstasy. They also led to the group's records being banned by 14 television and radio stations. A prerecorded interview has been dropped from the children's programme Scratchy and Co un Carlton Television today.

Harvey's apology later on Thursday, in which he said his comments had been stupid and irresponsible, failed to placate his colleagues. All four members appeared last night on Top of the Pops on BBCI singing their new single Hcy Child, but their performance had been pre-recorded earlier in the week.

East 17 have sold more than one million records in the past three months. Their latest album, Around The World -The Journey So Far, has sold more than 600,000 copies since its release ten weeks ago. The single If You Ever, with Gabrielle, has sold 400,000 copies since its release 12

PC Coulton is charged over arms discovery

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

THE Royal Protection Officer whose wife was murdered in the grounds of the nursing home where she worked was last night charged with firearms offences over weapons found at his home. PC Michael Coulton will appear before magistrates in Woking,

Surrey, today. He is charged with posses-sion of a prohibited weapon, shortening a shotgun and possession of a firearm with intent to cause another to believe unlawful violence would be used against them. The charges are unrelated to his wife's death. PC Coulton, 52, was arrested after allegedly pointing a shotgun at two detectives who visited his home in Woking. His wife Patricia worked at the Lynnursing home, Sunninghill, near Ascot.

CORRECTIO

Phillip Crawley, managing director of The Times Supplements Limited, has been appointed managing director of the New Zealand Herald, not managing editor, as incorrectly reported yesterday.

Bullimore says race is too dangerous

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

THE single-handed race that almost cost Tony Bullimore his life, and similar roundthe world-competitions, are becoming too dangerous, the yachtsman admitted yester-day. He believes future events need "taming". Mr Bullimore, 58, who

spent four days trapped in the upturned hull of his yacht in the Southern Ocean, said competitors were sailing too far south and that vacht designs were risking compet-

He spoke as the Chilean air force said it may have made contact with Gerry Routs, a been missing for ten days in the same race that has already seen Mr. Bullimore search has been launched in the Cape Horn area.

Mr Bullimore voiced his reservations about such races in a BBC television interview last night. He said: "I think the organisers of the race have got to look deeply at the rules and regulations and may have to tame the race a bit not allow the yachts to go so far south." He again pledged to try again "if I can get the right boat together".

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Lord of the Flies. On Monday Waterstone's will be publishing an essential guide to 20th Ceatury literature: the 100 greatest books of the century, as voted for by Waterstone's customers and Channel I viewers. How many of them will you have read? What will be at number one? And which books kept Golding's classic out of the top ten? To find out what some well known names think about the

top 100, watch Book Choice on Channel 4 every evening next week at 7.55pm.

WATERSTONES

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Blair hopes 'Oxo mum' will beef up the female vote

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

ready flattened his bouffant hairstyle to try to woo disaffected women voters, has now recruited an "Oxo mum" to try to complete the trans-

Labour's spin-doctors, in an attempt to mirror Bill Clinton's appeal to women voters, unveiled their own version of the 40-year-old advertising industry icon in their party political broadcast on Thursday night. Helen, a harassed middle-class mother in despair at poor schools, rising crime and NHS hospital waiting lists, is the latest weapon in the battle for the elusive female vote. "She is going to be our very own Oxo mum," beamed a proud Labour Party official last

If audience reaction is lavourable. 36-year-old Penny Bunton, star of Grown Ups. a BBC sitcom, could have a starring role until polling day. However, her contract is unlikely to last as

TONY BLAIR, who has allong as the Oxo matriach, who has been crumbling cubes since 1958.

It could also be a high-risk strategy. The "real" Oxo mum. Lynda Bellingham. who has starred as the perfect wife and mother for the past ten years, announced earlier this year that her marriage of 15 years was over.

Bellingham, who replaced the homely Mary Holland, the original Katie, was further embarrassed when Mayfair magazine unearthed topless pictures of her in an X-rated film, Confessions of a Driving Instructor, As for Mary Holland, little has been heard of her since she was ousted from the kitchen A Labour official said of

Ms Bunton: "She is very much new Labour. She voted Tory in 1979, but she votes for Labour now." Not that the actress was prepared to discuss her views on any political matter, let alone Mr Blair's hairstyle. "She is not



Penny Bunton as she appears in the latest Labour Party broadcast

at all political and is not prepared to make any comments on her political views." spokeswoman for her agents, Kerry Gardner Man-

agement, said. The role of Helen in the Labour Party commercial is not her first in the political arena. She played a researcher in The Politician's Wife who helped to expose her and Bella to try to improve

The jury is out on whether Labour officials women will be impressed by worked hard on Mr Blair's Helen. But Brooke Bond, maker of Oxo, believes that image with women after he was dubbed "smarmy" by his its character may do the trick. floating voter focus groups in 'She has been a tremendous Scotland last month. He has **SUCCESS**

Bishops pledge to speak their minds during election

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT, AND GLEN OWEN

BISHOPS in the Church of England pledged yesterday to speak out on political issues in the general election campaign.

The 53 bishops, who met privately this week in Liverpool, avowed their determination to fight for "a more just and holy world" as the election approached. The joint state-ment at such a politically sensitive time is thought to be

The bishops do not have a united political stance, but their determination to speak out for the homeless and unemployed means that, with few exceptions, many will be perceived as backing Labour. "We intend to discuss and

question the theological and ethical principles at stake in the election, as well as speak on specific issues where we have experience and know-ledge," they said. "We share responsibility not just for individual souls but for tackling corporate sin and pointing to the spiritual goals of society as

a whole." The bishops, whose meeting was chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, said that they affirmed "the importance and validity of the creation of

But they added: "At the same time we recall that each of us was charged at our consecration to have a special care for the outcast and needy. We must therefore be advocates for those who are excluded from access to well-being or influence in society, such as the homeless and the unemployed, young and old alike, and the mentally ill."

The statement comes a few days after five English bishops issued statements which were sympathetic in the Labour Party, and the Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, came out in open advocacy of Labour.

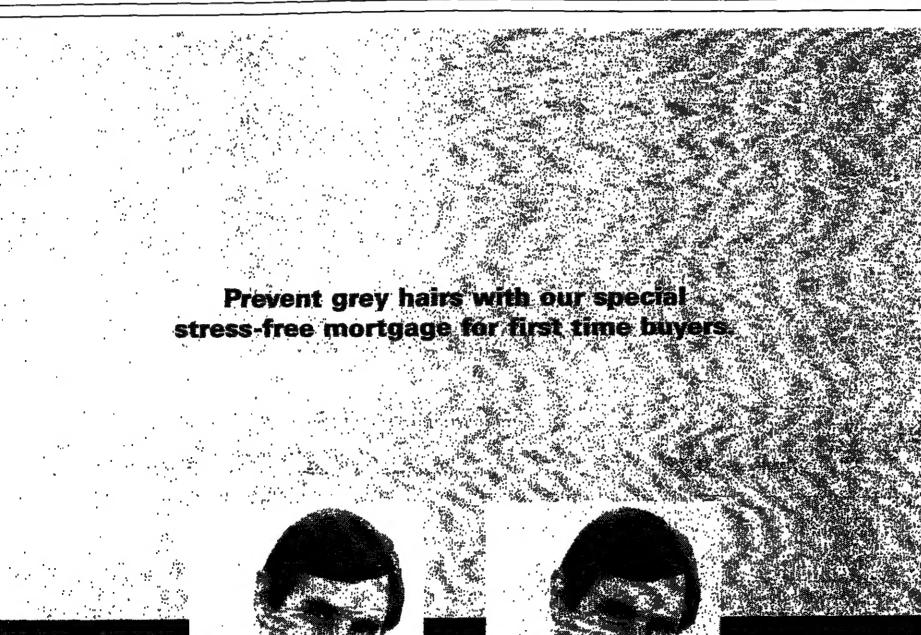
A more measured view came last week from the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, who said that more

must be made of Britain's successes and achievements over the past two decades. ☐ Christian conservatives have launched their own anti-

Labour election campaign under the banner new Labour. Christian values in danger and featuring a picture of a dishevelled dergyman weeping a red tear. The Christian Fellowship will distribute leafiets to more than 5,000 churches arguing that Labour would damage Christian values, for example by possibly allowing homosexuals to marry, or by introducing euthanasia.

A spokesman for the Christian Socialist Movement condemned the campaign. To say that new Labour represents a threat to Christian values is scaremongering. We will be pushing better jobs. better housing, and better

At Your Service. Weekend, page 13



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Straw denies pressure to make bugging U-turn

BY FRANCES GIBB AND ALICE THOMSON

IACK STRAW was forced to deny yesterday that he had bowed to pressure from Labour backbenchers and staged a U-turn over bugging. The Shadow Home Secretary was accused of abandoning his hardline stance on crime by trying to curtail chief constables power to authorise break-ins and bugging. The police want new search

powers to fight terrorism and organised crime. But Mr Straw put down last-minute amendments to the Police Bill which could mean the Government is defeated on the issue in the Lords next week.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that Mr Straw's volte-face would inhibit the fight against crime. He said Labour could no longer be trusted on law and order. But the Liberal Democrats praised the move. "We should all rejoice when a sinner comes to repentance,"

Mr Straw had originally planned to wave the Bill through but, after increasing pressure from his own backbenchers, the Law lords and many Labour peers, including former Prime Minister, Mr Straw drafted a series of

amendments in the Lords: Mr Straw said: "It was we in the Labour Party who called last year, with backing from Conservative members, for this whole system to be put on a statutory basis. But this Bill is badly drafted. Our amendments will ensure that civil liberties are protected."

At present the Bill gives chief constables wide powers to bug civilians. Labour's proposals would force the police to seek prior consent from a judge — before authorising a surveillance operation. They would also increase protection for lawyers, doctors and journalists.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Bord Chief Justice, and leading Tory peers yesterday. likely to vote with Labour. They and senior judges such as Lord Browne-Wilkinson will effectively decide the outder of Weedon QC, Conservative peer and a for-Council, said he did not believe, the Government amendments to the Police Bill "meet the concerns at all"...

Leading article, page 23

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THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Bludgeoned wife's lover collapses in family murder trial

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE lover of Eve Howells, the woman whose husband and sons are charged with her murder, collapsed in court yesterday as he was about to ell of their 12-year affair.

Russell Hirst slumped forward in the witness box on the second day of the trial of Mrs Howell's husband, David, and their teenage sons, Glenn and John. Mr Hirst, 38, had told the jury at Leeds Crown Court that he had known the family for 20 years since he started as an apprentice fitter working for Mr Howells at a chemical plant in Hudders-field, west Yorkshire.

He had become a close family friend and gone on holiday with them, he said. But, as Franz Muller, for the prosecution, questioned him about his involvement with the Howellses, he asked for a glass of water before falling forward on to his arms. A court usher cradled his head as a first-aider was called.

Then the burly, 6ft Mr Hirst was laid out, apparently un-conscious, alongside the public gallery. The court was cleared and,

after ten minutes, Mr Hirst walked with assistance to the restaurant. When the trial resumed 20 minutes later, Mr Justice Alliott, the trial judge, told the jury that Mr Hirst had gone to Leeds General Infirmary for checks. The judge said: "I have been told it was nothing worst than a faint. I was following his statement and the poor chap was just one line away from admitting his adultery, so perhaps it was not

Later the judge said that, on doctor's advice, Mr Hirst would not give evidence until Monday. The trial has already heard that Mr Howells, 47, had told detectives he was unaware of the affair, but had told a cellmate while on remand that he discovered the relationship two months be-

fore his 48-year-old wife's death on the night of August 31, 1995. She died under a hail of blows to the head from a stonemason's hammer as she sat in the living room at their bungalow in Huddersfield. Mr Howells, a maintenance

fitter, and his sons, who were 15 and 14 at the time, have denied murder. Glenn Howells, now 17, has admitted manslaughter because of provocation by his mother, who he claims mentally and emotionally abused him for five years. Initially the boys said that she had been killed by an intruder while they walked their dog and Mr Howelis played darts.

The prosecution claims that Mr Howells and his sons plotted to kill Mrs Howells, a history and religious instruction teacher at Newsome High School in Huddersfield, because of her domineering and tyrannical ways. While the boys carried out the kill-



Russell Hirst arrives at court yesterday before collapsing as he was about to tell of his affair with Mrs Howells

Yesterday Jamesena Stevwright, Mrs Howells's aunt, said that, shortly after the killing, she had visited the family at the hotel where they were staying. She said: "David told me he and Russell Hirst had gone to sleep on the bed

ing, Mr Howells set up an identify his wife in the mortu-alibi at the darts match, it was ary. She said: "He said. 'She was lovely, she was beautiful, beautiful, but the look in his eyes ... my spine chilled. I

have never experienced any-thing like it before." Earlier, John Chadwick; Mrs Howells's head of department, had said he was unaware of her nickname at school of "Evil" Howells. He said she was often sharp with

pupils and tended to deal with

them "head-on".
"She had a formal style and high expectations. She expected work to be done and, if it was not, she would challenge them about it. She had very little tact, she did not understand the effect she could have on the children. They were often upset at the way she spoke to them."

Anthony Folan, a school-

that the brothers were expected to do their own washing and ironing and clean their bedroom. Mrs Howells would subject it to a military-style inspection. He agreed that they could be banned from going out for at least a week for such offences as leaving a

friend of Glenn Howells, said under cross-examinations apple core in their room. The hearing continues.

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Small Latin and less Greek for pupils of future

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

dle further in comprehensive school sixth forms as a result of new limits next year on A-level syllabuses, Classics

teachers said yesterday. Sir Ron Dearing, in one of his last acts before retiring as chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Au-thority, asked the four A-level examining boards in England to reduce the number of syllabuses to two each in the major subjects. Less popular subjects such as Latin would be allowed only one syllabus

per board. Classicists claimed that the move would threaten popular syllabuses with a high level of coursework, which are openidfrom outside the grammar and independent ibjects said they

same danger. The lower limit would apply to subjects with fewer than 15,000 candidates. Even at GCSE. Latin attracted fewer than 12,000 entries last year. Barbara Bell, executive secre-tary of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, said: "It is already difficult to keep Classics on the timetable in state schools because they

LATIN and Greek will dwin- cannot afford the small classes. This will be one more obstacle, especially if it influences GCSE syllabuses.

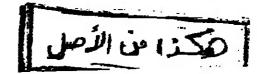
Coursework is limited to 20 per cent at A level, but independent schools, which provide the majority of candidates in Classics, opt mainly for wholly examined

Peter Jones, a founder of Priends of the Classics and lecturer in the subject at Newcastie University, said: With so much variation in pupils experience of Latin and Greek below the sixth form. that element of coursework can make all the difference."

A spokeswoman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said a reduction in the number of syllabuses would make it easier to guarantee standards. The authority felt that one syllabus per board was adequate for subjects with a small entry. but would not act unreasonably if there was evidence that

a subject might be damaged. Nick Tate, the chief execu-tive, appealed to state schools last year not to abandon classical studies. He said Latin and Greek were part of the "cement which holds together the consciousness of nation".





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THE religious quest is the search for knowledge in a world which grows more complex every day. Sacred texts guide us, but we need instruction from other sources as well. The ancientsfound inspiration in nature. which they peopled with many gods: even trees had dryads which could inspire humans. The Garden of Eden contained the Tree of Knowledge as well as the

Tree of Life. Next week. Jews celebrate Tu B'Sh'vat - the New Year of the Trees. Most religions vance where ancient traditions emerge to remind us that we are part of nature and often depend on the bounties of the earth for sustenance. This festival, which bids us to eat the fruit of many trees, fits that pattern.

The fifteenth day of the month of Sh'vat, at the end of the rainy season, was the time of determining the tithes for all the fruit of trees which blossom before Tu B'Sh'vat. It was a minor harvest feast, which developed in two ways: as a feast for the

mystics, with a special prayerbook possibly com-piled by Nathan of Gaza, the prophet" of the pseudo messiah Shabbatai Zevi, and as a happy folk observance.

In earlier days, Sephardic communities, in Baghdad, for example, made it a family occasion. Little sacks embroidered with their children's names and filled with sugared almonds and hazelnuts were hung around their necks. In well-to-do homes, one tried to collect 50 different kinds of fruit for a banquet where each guest

Rabbi Albert Friedlander

read a paragraph from a special text and was given a fruit for which he said the appropriate blessing. Even now, a night of study may take place where texts from the Bible, the Talmud and the mystic Zohar book are

Why this emphasis on study? Perhaps, here, we

come to that other pillar of Jewish life which belongs to. all our religious observances: study as part of worship and as part of our home life. The Torah," says our liturgy. is the Tree of Life," Somehow. we are transported back to the Garden of Eden, to the

everlasting life is beyond us: we cannot be like gods. But we can sit around the Tree of Knowledge and know good from evil, and we come to recognise that its fruits will always sustain us. Celebrating a "New Year of the Trees" may then contain a special insight into the human condition.

Tu B'Sh'vat is no longer a mystic feast celebrated by scholars. It has become even Tree of Knowledge and the more a children's festival.

Tree of Life that grow in its and there is the recognition

joyous affirmation of a tradition of learning which commences at the very beginning. The children of Jerusalem have a school holiday. go into the fields and plant trees. and share this feast with

Jewish children throughout

the world. . The Diaspora has also created happy rituals which convey that knowledge is not only acquired in books but in the woods and gardens. We cannot return to the Garden

centre. As the Bible and our that the quest for knowledge actual Tree of Knowledge own experience inform us, begins with the child and is a But, on this festival, the thought may come to us that Eve was right in forcing Adam to eat that fateful apple. We cannot live without the quest for knowledge. Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden their kindergarten, so that their children could grow, develop, and eat the fruit of knowledge:

> Albert Friedlander is Dean of Leo Baeck College and Rabbi of Westminister

Defender of the faith

A FORMER professional footballer who swapped his boots for the Bible is to return as a vicar to the town where he played. The Rev Peter Hart. former captain of Walsall FC. will take charge of St Martin's

Mr Hart, who is married with two daughters, made 472 appearances as a defender for the club. He began a theology course in 1990 and later served as a curate in Derbyshire.

Mr Hart, 39, takes up his new post in May. He hopes to return to the Second Division club's Bescot Stadium - on the terraces, rather than the

"It's very exciting to be coming back," he said. "I've got lots of happy memories from my time with Walsali. I gave up football gladly when I got my new vocation, but the game's always popping up when I tell my life story and of



Samuel Johnson, whose low opinion of women preachers still pervades more than 200 years later

Women preachers suffer as men turn a deaf ear

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

MALE worshippers' dislike of being told what to do by a female is making life difficult for women preachers, according to a report published this

Research into the problems faced by women preachers has revealed that many are faced with ambivalence or even hostility from men in the congregation. Men are uncomfortable with women in authority "because of the instinctive feelings of infantile dependency they engender",

the research suggests.
The report, published in the 1997 fellowship paper of the College of Preachers, comes nearly three years after the first women were ordained to

of England, although women vere preaching from Anglican and Methodist pulpits for decades before that. But, prompting the question of how much, if anything, has changed, it comes more than two centuries after Samuel Johnson said: "A woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hinder legs. It is not done well; but you are

surprised to find it done at Of the entries so far to this, year's Times/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award, about one fifth are women. In the previous two years, at least one woman has made the final five or six.

The report, by Canon Peter Kerr, of the Church of Ireland,

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is based on the results of

tions in America. The research, by Professor Lee McGhee of Yale Divinity School, is based on surveys carried out in 1979 and 1994. and examines how congregations listen to and perceive

women's preaching.
Canon Kerr said: "There would seem to be definite differences in the way people listen to men and women in the pulpit, though these are ess marked in the later survey, perhaps because congregations are more used to women preachers."

But he says there were differences. The content of women's preaching was described as personal and innovative whereas men preached scholarly, informa-tive and knowledgeable serered forceful, persuasive and loud in their delivery, while women were clear, sincere and evoked emotion.

Canon Kerr wrote: "For the past 2,000 years it is the male voice that has dominated, not just in preaching, but in liturgy and theology. In other words, congregations are just not used to women

preachers."

The closing date for entries to The Times/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award is March 31. The final will be held in November in Durham Cathedral. For the first time, entrants may submit tapes of their sermons.

Dying man is granted Ireland's first divorce

BY AUDREY MAGEE

THE first divorce in the history of the Irish Republic was granted yesterday to a terminally ill man who wants to

marry again before he dies. The case in the High Court in Dublin ends Ireland's centuries-old ban. It was the last country in the European Union to introduce divorce

The man, who cannot be named, is aged 68 and is believed to have a brain turnour. He wanted to divorce his first wife in the hope of settling all financial and legal matters with his long-term partner before his death. He has three adult children with his wife and a daughter with his lover.

But he feared he would he dead before legislation permitting divorce came into effect. Although the Irish voted in November 1995 to allow di-vorce, the Family Law (Divorce) 1996 Act does not take effect until February 27.

The man claimed his constitutional rights were being intringed by the Irish Government's failure to introduce the legistation in time for him to divorce and remarry. Judge Henry Barron agreed and granted the divorce, which

was not contested. The man, his wife and lover live close to one another in south Dublin. They are on friendly terms. The man and his partner are professionals who run their practice in a bailding owned by the wife.

Divorce had once been commonplace in Ireland under Brehon law. But the arrival from Rome of St Patrick and Palladius, the first bishop to Ireland, in the 5th century, led to Brehon laws being replaced

by Christian ones: Yesterday's decision was welcomed by divorce groups. An estimated 80,000 people are separated in Ireland and

many are awaiting divorce. The Catholic Church said it accepted divorce was now inevitable. The Church accepts that decision and we will



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THE***TIMES Preacher of the Year Organised by the College of Preachers Preachers are invited to put themselves forward for *The Times*/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1997. The winner Freacher of the Year Award 1997. The winner will be presented with a specialty commissioned scutpture for display in his or her church and will have their sermon published in The Times. Runners up will also receive an award to mark their achievement. Entrants can submit notes or complete sermons, but notes as them 2000 street in their achievement.

more than 2,000 words in total please. Tapes will also be accepted. Congregations or a member of a congregation may also nominate a preacher, but only if their permission is obtained first. PREACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM Name and address of preacher, with a daytime talephone ame, address and denomination of church.

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Eric Hebborn continues to haunt art world with posthumous publication of the secrets of his trade

Top forger's DIY guide to creating **Old Masters**

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

dered, Eric Hebborn, the mas- mies were unable to stop The ter lorger who duped the art. Art Forger's Handbook being world in the 1960s with more than 1,000 Old Master drawings, is having the last laugh. His guide to how to fake a work of art is to be published posthumously.

knowler

Everything an aspiring faker needs to know is there and, as Hebborn admitted, reads in parts like a cookery book: recipes for inks to use, breadcrumbs to simulate the "rubbed look so often found on old drawings, and olive oil for causing some "interesting stains". He also gives tips on how to forge signatures.

Hebborn (1931-96), who faked works by Augustus John, Renoir, Corot and dozens of other masters that fooled collectors and curators worldwide, died in mysterious circumstances at his home in Rome. The city's coroner believes he was murdered.

It is thought someone was trying to prevent him making further revelations about who



Hebborn: forged more than 1,000 Old Masters.

A YEAR after he was mur- was duped. However, his enepublished. It comes out next month to coincide with an exhibition in London of his forged -drawings by Rem-brandt, Boucher and Watteau. Hebborn, who was sent to borstal aged 8 for setting fire

to his school, turned to crime when the art establishment rejected his work. He had won every prize at the Royal Academy School and seemed destined for a glittering career.
Posing as a dealer from his
home in Italy, he could explain
the large mumber of Old
Masters that had come his way. He deceived the art world for nearly 20 years. In fact, he still does: no one

quite sure where all his works are. Examples entered eminent collections such as the British Museum and the National Gallery in Washington. To add to the confusion. Hebborn admitted that some of the tales described in his 1991 autobiography, Drawn to Trouble, were untrue.

What emerges from Heb-born's handbook is a pro-found knowledge of the Old Masters. He says an under-standing of takes sharpens the eye in looking at the real thing. On the choice of subject matter, he advised: "The general rule is that the less important the name of the artist, the more attractive must be the subject-matter ... Children are ... very saleable, as are views of Venice."

The Art Forger's Handbook is published by Cassell on Febmany & The exhibition is at Archeus Fine Art, New Bond Street, from February







Spot the difference: Eric Hebborn's copy, top left, of Picter Brueghel the Elder's The Painter and the Connoisseur. Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo's Nessus Seizing Deianira, bottom left, inspired Hebborn's adaptation, right

TIPS FROM A MASTER FAKER

found on old works.

Collect a stock of period paper from salerooms, print and booksellers. ☐ For charcoal drawing, pack a tin can with willow twigs and slim boughs and put it into the "middle of a very big bonfire". Invite your friends round for a party. When they have gone home, not low the fin from the askes and won. retrieve the tin from the askes and you have your charcoal.

Repair worm-holes in paper so that the inside edges of the holes are not

covered with tell-tale ink. The simplest way is to chew it. Lay the sheet on a marble slab and taking a well-chewed, perfectly soft piece of pulped paper — larger than the hole to be meaded ce it over the hole. Cover with bioting paper and, with a wooden mallet, weld in the pulp. As time passes, the felt will harden. When the work is finished, it can be removed. ☐ Works in pastel are entremely fragile unless fixed. Skimmed milk can

be used.

The pens of the Old Masters were the quill and reed pen. These produce qualities difficult to emulate with any other kind of pen. A look at Rem-

made from the pinion feathers of birds. First find an amenable bird. To cut a quill one requires a very sharp penknife or scalpel and a small

☐ Haif a potato rubbed over a grease stain on paper will normally permit one to draw over the area with ink thich would not otherwise take on it.

Use period frames, especially if they have labels and inscriptions on the back to suggest a suitable provenance. But do your homework: there may, for instance, be a lot number chalked on the back that an auction house could look up in an old sale catalogue.

Case of faked **Rodins leaves** France with red-tinted face

مكذا من الأصل

ing the art market with thoupurporting to be the work of Rodin went on trial in France

Guy Hain is appearing in Lure, western France, in what police say is one of the most important forgery cases since the war. It has caused deep embarrassment in France, where the suspect bronzes went unnoticed for years and passed through the hands of

nighly reputable dealers.

M Hain, nicknamed "the Duke of Burgundy* after the name of his former Paris shop, has been charged with counterfeiting works of art by manufacturing replicas of famous sculptures by Rodin and other artists and then selling them as originals. According to prosecutors, the scheme netted 100 million francs (£13 million).

Over a five-year investigation, police confiscated more than 3,000 pieces of sculpture which are now being held under seal in Lure. The statuary, weighing 20 tonnes, includes replicas of Rodin's sculpture of Balzac. The Burghers of Calais, The Kiss and his best-known work, The Thinker. There are also copies of other sculptures by Renoir. Maillol, Carpeaux and Barye.

The works are of different sizes, ranging from vast fin-ished bronzes to incomplete plaster casts. None, according to police, can be classified as a genuine work of art by the artists. Some were made using Rodin's own plaster mouldings, but were manufactured more than 70 years after his death. Many of the latter-day copies are virtually indistinguishable from authentic Robronzes. According to prosecutors, instead of labeling them as reproductions,

M Hain and his former wife, Solange Jonckheere, sold them on as original Rodins. Investigators say that fabricating each new bronze cost M Hain about £2,500. When

sold as originals at the height of the art boom in the late 1980s, some of the alleged fakes fetched between £350,000 and £600,000 each. Several are believed to have been sold to wealthy private collectors in Japan. The forgeries might have

passed undetected but for the dogged sleuthing of Denis Vincenot, a Dijon policeman known as the "Maigret of Bronzes", Inspector Vincenot began looking into M Hain's activities in 1991, and he is the key witness in the trial.

If convicted. M Hain faces up to five years in prison. Two Paris auctioneers. Francis Faure and Bernard Rey, who allegedly sold "hundreds" of the sculptures, have been accused of complicity, along with Bernard Rudier, a descendant of the bronze-maker employed by Rodin.

Tracking such forgeries is notoriously difficult, since laws limiting the number of original editions of any sculpture were passed in France only in 1981. Most of the copied bronzes were allegedly cast in a foundry near Lure belonging to Mme Jonckheere.

Some were made by making new plaster casts from original bronzes, but investigators say others were created using original plaster mouldings obtained from the Rudier found-ry. M Hain is accused of altering the stamp on the finished bronzes to read "Alexis Rudier", the name of Ro-din's founder. Only a few of the bronzes seized by police carried the stamp "reproduction", as required under

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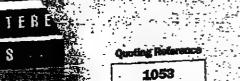
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Radio 1 tipped to wake up with the 'new John Peel'

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

Radio I disc jockey, emerged yesterday as favourite to replace Chris Evans on the breakfast show, ahead of a rival from the commercial sector, Steve Penk.

Also tipped for Evans's job were the award-winning Russ 'n' Jono (Russ Williams and Jonathan Coleman) from Virgin Radio. They may prove too costly, however, as they are believed to have loyalty bonuses written into their contracts.

Radio 1 advertised yesterday for Evans's replacement on an electronic billboard in Piccadilly Circus. He resigned on Thursday after Matthew Bannister, the Radio I Controller, refused to let him work a four-day week.

There are few tried and tested presenters in his league. despite the huge growth in commercial radio this decade: there are now 178 local and three national commercial

Radcliffe presents a Radio I show from 10pm to midnight on weekdays, with a broad mix of indie music and poetry. Steve Penk joined the London

MARK RADCLIFFE, the station Capital FM last September to present the midmorning show. He is being groomed as the eventual successor to the station's veteran breakfast host, Chris Tarrant. Like Radcliffe, Penk is a

Mancunian who cut his broadcasting teeth by working for the independent station Piccadilly. He was signed by £150,000 a year after a bidding contest with another London station. Heart. One of Penk's most notori-

ous pranks on Piccadilly was "spousal arousal", in which women telephoned their husbands at work and pleaded with them to return home for sex. The calls were broadcast live and ended with Penk butting in with the words "Surprise, surprise!"

Radcliffe emerged from the "Madchester" music scene in the 1980s and was a producer at Piccadilly. His stint as presenter of The White Room, a critically acclaimed Channel 4 music programme, strength-ened his credibility in the music business, where he is known as "the new John Peel".



Radcliffe: he may not fit show's madcap image

Many in the industry feel, however, that he would not fit the madcap style common to breakfast shows.

News of Evans's departure was welcomed by some senior BBC executives, who had been unhappy about his bad language and risque pranks dur-ing the past two years. A source said: "Chris Evans has served his purpose. When Radio I was losing millions of listeners and sacking its older

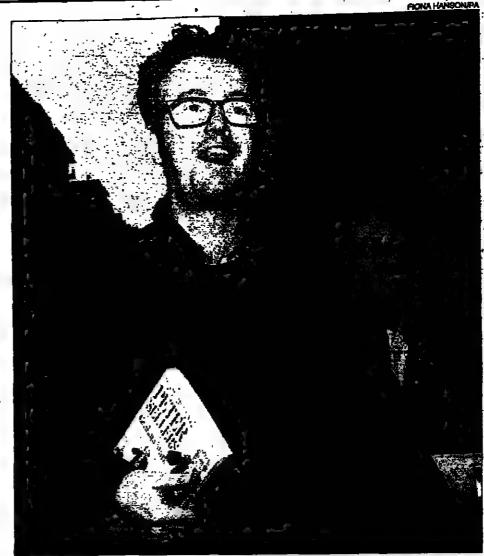
he was put under by the BBC governors and to publicise the fact that Radio I was no longer naff. He was the hook around which they repositioned the public image of the station."

Evans leaves on March 27. Mr Bannister's advertisement in Piccadilly read: "Wanted: Radio I breakfast show disc jockey. Must work five days a week. Ginger hair an advantage. Apply Radio I."

Evans, who opened his show yesterday with Please Release Me, took the opportunity to advertise himself and his team: "If somebody wants to offer us a job Monday to Thursday we'd love to do it," he said.

He is unlikely to be short of work for long. Virgin Radio and Talk Radio are keen to hire him. Also, Evans's company, Ginger Productions, is understood to be negotiating with Channel 4 to produce his television show, TFI Friday, three nights a week.

Ginger Productions is also rumoured to be lobbying hard for the contract to make Channel 4's Big Breakfast, which



Chris Evans leaving Radio I yesterday. His first record was Please Release Me-

Detention for attacker of DPP's husband

BY AUDIAN LEE

A TEENAGER who stabbed and almost killed the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions was sent to a young offenders' institution for eight years yesterday. A judge said he had a duty to impose a stern sentence to deter those who routinely carried knives.

The youth, now aged 17, pushed the blade deep into the stomach of John Mills, whose wife, Barbara, is the DPP, severing an artery and piero-ing his liver. Only prompt action by two policemen saved his life and Mr Mills, 58 a businessman, bas since made a full-recovery. Judge Pohias raids Mr

Mills had done making to attract the attention of the youth, with cannot be passed. before the attack in May 1995 in a north London street. He was stabbed with a butterfly knife, a double-bladed martial

arts weapon.

The judger condemnate the teerager, who has a previous conviction of wounding and robbery, for brahening out a lengthy trial. He said his claims of remorse rang holes. low. "It seems you are someone who is all too ready to use violence on others."

File on Duke of York left in stolen naval car

BY DANGEL McCORDRY

CONFIDENTIAL records about the Royal Navy's plan to promote the Duke of York before he leaves the service have been found by police after they were stolen from an Admiral's chauffeur-driven car.

The Rover 820 was taken after the navy driver left the engine running while he went into a shop at Gosport, Hampshire, to buy a newspaper. On the front seat was a briefcase containing more than 200 staff records, including recommendations about the Duke's suitability for promotion, and remarks by senior figures about his

Defence officials admitted yesterday to being deeply embarrassed by the incident, which echoed the theft in 1990 of the Gulf War Allies' secret battle plan to defeat Saddam Hussein, when a wing commander left his vehicle to visit a car showroom.

A senior navy source said: "While there was nothing top secret, there was information which in the wrong hands would have caused a lot of very ned faces in Whitehall."

The briefcase was found by a police dog, some distance from the car, which had been abandoned yards away in the town centre. The Navy leading hand who mislaid his vehicle now faces a court martial. The Ministry of Defence said: "We are just grateful to have got

everything back intact."
The vehicle taken in Gosport was used by Vice-Admiral John Brigstocke, who is Flag Officer Surface Flotilia and in charge of the Navy's 100 surface vessels. It is understood Admiral Brigstocke had the confidential staff reports because he sits on promotion

The Duke's report will say whether officers thought be had the right attributes for promotion from lieutenant-commander to commander and the reasons why he was suitable or not.

The Duke started in a new post at the Ministry of Defence this week after announcing that he intended to leave the Navy in 1999 after completing 20 years' service. Navy sources said last night that the Duke was eligible for promotion up until the moment he handed in his written resignation.



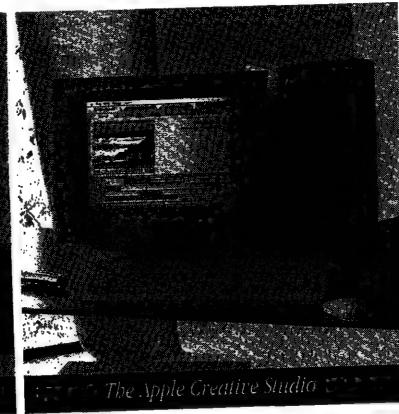
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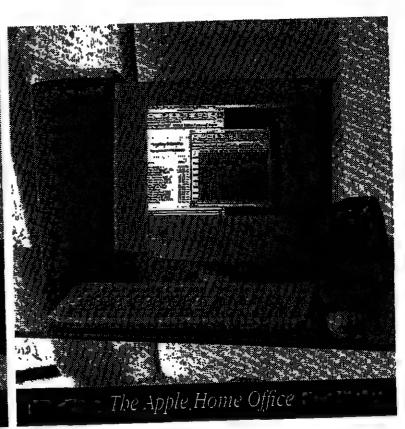
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Council ruffles feathers in battle of Trafalgar Square

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AN ATTEMPT to evict Trafalgar Square's pigeons by starving them into submission was set in train yesterday by Westminster City Council. which says that the birds are damaging buildings and spreading disease.

However, the pampered fowl have been defended by the London Tourist Board and the Department of National Heritage, which is responsible for the square. They argue that pigeons are as much part of the scenery as Nelson's Column.

The council's environment sub-committee has voted to ask the Heritage Department to rescind the licence of the square's one authorised birdseed seller. The council also wants the square to be included in a general ban on pigeon feeding throughout the borough. It is to ask the Home Office for permission to pass a bylaw to that effect.

Jonathan Lord, the chairman of the sub-committee. said: "We know the birds are popular with visitors, but we receive a steady stream of complaints from residents. At



Trafalgar Square's sole licensed birdseed vendor may have his permit rescinded by the council

least 10 per cent of the birds carry diseases such as salmonella and tuberculosis. Their acidic droppings damage buildings and statues. More than a ton is removed every year from Nelson's Column alone. We would like a bylaw banning the feeding of pigeons in public spaces which would be enforced with fines of, say, £40 to £50 for a first offence. The aim would be to reduce the birds' numbers, not to get

"The main target would be the persistent offenders, the little old ladies who are out

rid of them.

every day with bags of breadcrumbs, which they often dump still half-full, creating a food supply for rats."

Louise Wood, of the tourist board, said visitors to London would be hugely disappointed if bird feeding were stopped. She said: "Trafalgar Square must be one of the most photographed sites in the world and tourists come expecting to feed the pigeons."

The Heritage Department said it had no plans to revoke the licence of the seed vendor. which has two more years to run before it comes up for

review. Trafalgar Square is a landmark site, a major tourist attraction, and the pigeons are part of it," a spokeswoman said. "It is better to encourage people to feed the birds with seed than with bits of hamburger and sandwiches." The department spends £100,000 a year hosing down the square.

Bernard Rayner, the current holder of the seed vendor's licence, did not look like a man whose job was under threat yesterday. My family have been selling seeds here for 50 years. The pigeons are part of our heritage," he said. Mr Rayner, who charges 25p for a teacup-sized pot of birdseed. was coy about how much he made each year, but said it afforded a comfortable living.

graph with a pigeon on his head. Scott Means, a computer specialist from Florida on holiday in London with his wife and daughter, said: "It is all part of the appeal of the place. I would be very upset if I could not feed the birds.". But Bernd Schmidt, a hygieneconscious German student, said he could do without the birds. "Very dirty," he said, wrinkling his nose.

After posing for a photo-



The pigeons' backers include the London Tourist Board, which says visitors expect to feed the birds

NEWS IN BRIEF Barking fine for couple with six dogs

A couple whose six barking dogs annoyed neighbours for 18 months were ordered to pay fines and costs of £3,790 by magistrates at Wigan, Greater Manchester. Six residents living near David Mann and Kelly Lomas in Leigh contacted the local council complaining that the noise of the border collies made it impossible to read, watch television or sleep. The couple have since moved away.

Girl raped on way to school

A 15-year-old girl was raped at knifepoint inside a derelict A 15-year-ott girl was raped at knitepoint inside a dereitet garage after stopping for a cigarette on her way to school. She had walked a few yards off the footpath leading to her school in Framlingham. Suffolk, when she was confronted by a man wearing a balactava. He ran off towards the town centre after the attack and the girl then managed to

Prison for charity swindler

A woman who stole thousands of pounds from the national cot death charity she launched was jailed for II months yesterday by Liverpool Crown Court. Susan Howe, 43, of Formby, Merseyside, denied 19 charges of stealing a total of £36,872 from the Cot Death Society, but was found on the control of £36,872 from the Cot Death Society, but was found on the control of £36,872 from the Cot Death Society, but was found guilty of 15 of them at her trial last month. She launched the charity in 1991 after a friend's child died.

Spector waits for decision

Judgment was reserved yesterday in a High Court action over the rights to the pop song To Know Him is to Love Him. The 1950s hit was written by Phil Spector, 57, who is fighting the British-based Bourne Music Ltd for return of the rights. He is also claiming hundreds of thousands of pounds in royalties. Mr Justice Ferris did not say when he would give his ruling.

BBC man changes channel

The leading BBC foreign correspondent, Tim Sebastian, is leaving to become diplomatic editor of Channel 5 News. Mr Sebastian, who has worked in Moscow, Washington and Eastern Europe for the corporation and currently presents Newsdesk, the BBC World channel's morning news show, will start his new job next month.

Eurostar smuggler in court

A French law student, who was paid £600 to struggle two kilograms of heroin, worth £165,000, through the Channel Tunnel, was sent to a young offender institution for five years. Southwark Crown Court was told that Virginia Gazel, 19, from Beauvais, Paris, was caught by a routine customs check last October. She pleaded guilty.

Watchman jailed over fire

A security guard who caused a £1.5 million fire at a warehouse in Stockton-on-Tees was jailed for 27 months by Teesside Crown Court. Philip Green, 28, of Middlesbrough, used his cigarette lighter to look around after his torch failed. He fell and started fires in two

Gilbey wins libel damages



James Gilbey, left, a friend of Diana, Princess of Wales, accepted undis-closed libel damages over an article in the Independent on Sunday last August which gave the faise Wilby, former Editor, said that they had confused Mr

Deaths rise in cold spell

The cold weather led to a big increase in the number of deaths registered in England and Wales. Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed there were 19,553 deaths during the week ending January 10, nearly 6,000 above the average for this time of year. A week earlier the figure was 18,616.

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| | Cardill | Costa Del Sol | 4 May | 14 | 28355 | NAL! | IT / HB | Summer Sun | £400 | £60 | £340 | £306 | |
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TME

Threat of violence returns to Hebron hours after pullout

ISRAEL withdrew its troops from most of Hebron at dawn yesterday, but within hours the signs of conflict had

A curfew was clamped on Palestinians living near the remaining Jewish settlers and Arabs chanted the praises of Yihye Ayyash, the "master of the suicide bomb.

As leaders of the 450 settlers rent their clothes in grief for the loss of part of their home-land to hablim (terrorists), the 100,000 Arabs freed from military occupation after 30 years set off fireworks and toured cells in the British-built military headquarters where many had been imprisoned.

Despite the portraits of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority. now displayed at roadsides, many of the newly liberated Hebronites did little to disguise the fact that their true loyalties lay with Hamas, the militant Islamic group which opposed the deal that gave them free-

in the shadow of the imposing Tegart Fort (named after a Mandate security

chief. Charles Tegarti which had been Israeli military headquarters until its transfer at 6.10am, Palestinian policemen looked on benignly as chants in memory of Ayyash (The Engineer), the murdered Hamas bomb-maker, filled the air.

Had the Jewish settlers living in heavily fortified buildings in the heart of the city below been present, their paranoia about the future would have been intensified. 'Ayyash, Ayyash, we will be joining you in paradise," sang an impromptu choir of young men with unsmiling eyes and women in Islamic headscarves, more common in Hebron than elsewhere in the West Bank. "The Israeli occupiers should never forget: we are all Ayyash."

Even the most respectable of those who had come to the abandoned symbol of foreign rule, now sporting a Palestinian flag on its 80ft antenna. had stories to tell of hardships under the Israeli occupiers who seized control from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. Dr Anwan Maswadeh, a

As Rabbi Lior led the nodding heads in reciting Psalm 142, many of the Jews were red-eyed from recent tears. Watching the men grieving was Geula Cohen, a retired right-wing politician and onetime radio operator for Jewish underground terrorists who fought the British. Her emotions were heightened by the knowledge that her son is one of the members of the Cabinet who backed Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, in pushing through the pullout decision.

Palestinian GP, had brought Reema, his nine-year-old

daughter, to show her the cells

where he spent one and a half

years for membership of Fatah, Mr Arafat's PLO fac-

tion. "When I last came here I

was blindfolded and in hand-

cuffs. Now I am a free man,

arriving in the sunshine with

my daughter." the doctor said.

But my optimism is tempered because the settlers are still

among us. I am alraid there

It was only a few minutes'

drive to the Jewish cemetery

on the opposite hillside where

settlers were conducting their

ceremony of mourning, with

Dov Lior, a prominent rabbi, cutting each of their shirts

with scissors before they tore

the market where the curfew

was imposed after scores of

Palestinians armed with

stones and bottles began to

pelt some of the 2,500 Israeli

troops left to guard the settlers. Tempers flared as the

settlers were left free to walk at

The route took us through

them in a grieving ritual.

will be more trouble."

"it is a day of shame for Netanyahu, who caved in to US pressure," Mrs Cohen said. She pointed to the large swath of the City of the Patriarchs now under Palestinian control. "It is the beginning of a Palestinian state. I am sure we [the Israelis] will come again and free it again, but only in a very bloody war."



Riot police bar a lone protester's way to the Myongdong cathedral yesterday

Seoul police ring cathedral

FROM REUTER IN SEOUL

Kwon Young Kil, the strike leader and president of the

outlawed Korean Confedera-

tion of Trade Unions, chal-

lenged Lee Hong Koo, the chairman of the New Korean

Party, to a debate over the new labour law that has

sparked more than three

weeks of stoppages. Mr Kwon

called on the party chairman

SOUTH KOREAN police yesterday tightened a security noose around a Seoul cathe dral where a strike leader was hiding from arrest, and the ruling party scorned an offer by the fugitive for a televised

Special force officers trained in unarmed combat guarded approaches to Myongdong cathedral, while police checked cars approaching the building.

The "grabbers" — hardened by years of street fighting are deployed during riots to

personally to square off with him on camera. He also rush into crowds and make arrests. South Korea's Roman Catholic cardinal appealed to demanded that the Govern-President Kim to "resolve the ment must guarantee his safesituation with dialogue, a presidential spokesman said.

ty from arrest. The New Korea Party rejected the offer, on the ground that Mr Kwon was a fugitive, and called on unions to put forward more suitable candidates. There cannot be guarantees of safety for people who have legal problems," the party said. The strikes were wound down last night and there were just pockets of

Spain retreats on **Rock passports**

Madrid: Spain denied yesterday that it is soon to stop recognising passports issued in Gibraliar (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The announcement was an attempt to close a growing rift between Spain and Britain over the Rock.

The prospect of the Spanish treating as obsolete a 1960 Anglo-Spanish visa-waiver treaty, under which Gibraltarians acquired the right to travel freely to Spain, had sent shock waves through the Rock this week. Yesterday Madrid climbed down, saying the Government was "only studying the possibility of changes to the treaty". Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Gibraltar next week and hold talks with Abel Manutes, his Spanish counterpart.

Timor murder plot 'foiled'

Sydney: Supporters of Bishop Carlos Belo, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, foiled a plot to assassinate him in Dili, the capital of East Timor, by beating to death an Indonesian soldier on Christmas Eve, Hilton Deakin, the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, said. The news was given in a fax from a prominent East Timor Roman Catholic. Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and made it their 27th province in 1976. The move has not been recognised by the United Nations. (Reuter)

Serb politician's suicide bid

Pale: Doctors battled to save the former Bosnian Serb Vice-President. Nikola Koljevic, who was in a coma yesterday after shooting himself in the head in a suicide attempt, political sources said. Mr Koljevic, 60, a Shakespeare scholar and former Sarajevo University professor, shot himself in his office in the seat of the Serb republic's Government at Pale. Dense fog prevented doctors from flying Mr Koljevic to Belgrade immediately after the shooting. (Reuter)

Maputo backs game park

Maputo: Mozambique has granted final approval for a private game reserve which the US-based company behind the project claims is the largest in the world. The scheme encompasses 580,000 acres in the Maputuland region of southern Mozambique, Blanchard Mozambique Enterprises said. US millionaire James Blanchard presented an outline of the project to President Chissano in 1995. (Reuter)

Montenegrin minister dies

Beigrade: Janko Jeknic, Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, died in a road accident. He was 46. Mr Jeknic's car collided with a bus outside the capital, Podgorica. He had served as head of protocol and consul for economic affairs in the Yugoslav consulate in Milan, Italy, before becoming Foreign Minister. (Reuter)

Reeve back in hospital

New York: The wheelchair-bound actor Christopher Reeve was admitted to hospital with a blood clot behind his knee (Quentin Letts writes). Mr Reeve, the former Superman star disabled in a horseriding accident two years ago, is likely to be kept under observation for a few days before going home.



A rabbi helps a Hebron settler to tear his shirt in ritual mourning over the handover of the city to Palestinian rule

The mystery disease that strikes fast and can kill in hours: a special report in The Sunday

Titnes Magazine tomorrow

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

مكذا من الأصل

Gingrich remains defiant in face of \$300,000 penalty

LAWYERS agreed last night that Newt Gingrich should be ordered to pay a penalty of \$300,000 (£180,000) after the special counsel investigating ethics charges against the House Speaker released a highly condemnatory report.

The size of the recommended fine is likely to dramatise for Americans the serious nature of Mr Gingrich's admitted ethics violations. But it will not prompt him to resign, as many Democrats

James Cole, who recommended a hefty fine, a repri-mand and a federal investigation, agreed tentatively with lawyers representing Mr Gingrich that he should pay \$300,000 and be admonished in writing by his colleagues when the House votes on the issue next week.

The large financial penalty has been designed to reimburse the ethics committee for extra work done as a result of accurate statements submit-

ted under the Speaker's name. The fine comes to nearly twice the Speaker's annual salary of \$171,500, and is much higher than Mr Gingrich and his colleagues had expected. If the House votes to sanction. the penalty against Mr Gingrich on Tuesday, he will be the first Speaker ever disciplined by his peers. Only two weeks ago he became the first Repub-

lican re-elected to the office in

Republicans said that the

agreement between the lawyers had been reached during a private session of the House ethics committee vesterday in which members had reviewed the 200 page document, the culmination of a year-long inquiry by Mr Cole.

The report, the critical element in the committee's investigation of whether Mr Ging-rich had misused charitable donations for political pur-poses, was distributed to all 435 members of the House last night as public hearings into

Part of the document was said to recommend a full inquiry by the Justice Depart-ment on the apparent use of charitable contributions for partisan political purposes. ast night Republicans were playing down the size of the penalty and privately were hoping that the impending inauguration of President Clinton would overshadow any political damage before

the Tuesday vote. The Democrats had been dealt a public relations disaster from their own ranks. earlier in the week when Jim McDermott, the leading Democrat on the ethics committee, was forced to resign from the inquiry. Mr McDermott was accused by his opponents of American rocket explodes in fireball FROM IAN BRODIE

IN WASHINGTON

A DELTA-2 rocket exploded spectacularly on take-off from Cape Canaveral yesterday. A shower of fireballs rained down on the space centre, and smoke was still billowing from the launch-pad half an hour later. The rocket, built by McDonnell Douglas Corporation, was carrying a global positioning satellite worth \$55 million (£34 million) into orbit for the US Air Force.

deliberately leaking an illegal

ly recorded tape involving Mr

Gingrich to several leading

American newspapers and the

FBI announced an immediate

investigation. His resignation

deflected the worst embarrass-

ments of the Gingrich affair

and Republicans were able

both to truncate the public

hearings and to ensure that

Mr Cole's evidence was kept to

Nevertheless, as speculation

increased on Capitol Hill last

night in advance of the re-

port's release. Mr Gingrich's

allies were hoping that the special counsel had gone no

further in his comments than

a statement of violation issued

last month, which said that

taken legal advice about the

use of tax-exempt funds.
It cited conflicting remarks

by him about whether his

political action committee had

received money from non-

profit groups, whether it was

involved in financing a college course he was teaching and

whether the course had parti-

Regardless of the ultimate

outcome of the ethics case, Mr

Gingrich was left; severely

wounded by the process. A new cadre of ambitious Re-

publicans is already emerging

to fill the vacuum left by the

mastermind of the Republican

san objectives.

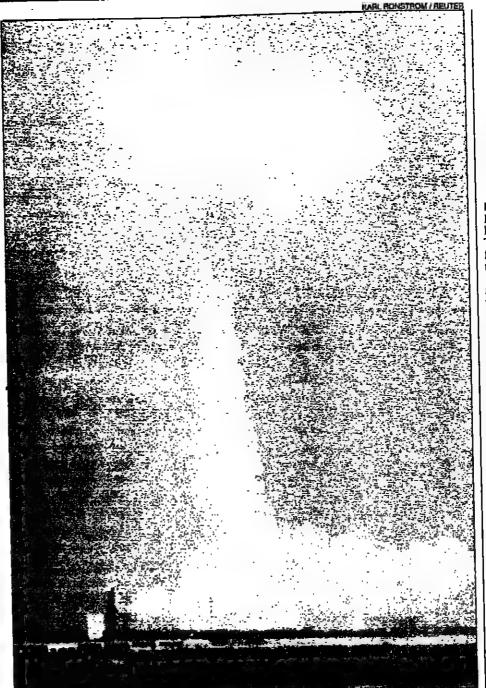
Gingrich should have

Larry McCracken, an for McDonnell Douglas, said the explosion of the three-stage rocket occ-urred less than four seconds into the flight and even before the rocket had cleared the tower to which it had been tethered for the launch.

Karl Ronstrom, a photogra pher who was taking pictures of the launch from a distance of two miles, said that after the main explosion he heard four or more minor expiosions, along with the smoke and fireballs.

The Air Force had no immediate explanation for the explosion, but ordered an investigation. No one was hurt. The launch had been delayed from Thursday because of high winds.

The Delta is regarded as the world's most reliable rocket. It has been in use since 1960. and yesterday's launch was the 241st, of which fewer than ten have failed to reach orbit. The last one to explode was in



The rocket carrying a US Air Force navigational satellite explodes on take-off

Fujimori hints at talks on prisoners

SOUTH AMERICA

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI of Peru yesterday indicated that he is prepared to discuss the Tupac Amaru rebels' demand for the release of hundreds of their imprisoned comrades.

Señor Fujimori told a Japanese television network that the subject may be among issues to be discussed in formal talks that are due to start next week. However, the President maintained his characteristic tough line and said the "Government cannot approve such a liberation".

The rebels released last night one hostage from the Lima residence of the Japanese Ambassador, the first to be freed since the beginning of the year. He was Luis Valencia Gerano, a former chief of Peru's anti-terrorist police. Seventy-three hostages remain in captivity.

The rebels have agreed to participate in talks with the Government only if the release of fellow guerrillas was on the agenda. Western diplomats in Lima said the talks would be held in a church in the capital.

Señor Fujimori is under growing pressure to find a solution to the hostage crisis. He has so far resisted the possibility of a commando raid to free the hostages because Japan vociferously opposes a military plan. Among the hostages are Morihisa Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador, and at least 20 Japanese executives.

On Thursday, Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the rebels' leader. kept up the war of nerves with Senor Fujimori by saying that he would not take part in talks until the Government allows imprisoned rebels to begin receiving visits again. Visits to high-security prisons had been stopped since December 17 when the Tupac Amaru took their hostages. The Red Cross has also been barred from the prisons. It remained unclear whether the demand by Señor Cerpa had been met.

Last night there were indications that Canada was willing to act as go-between, with Ottawa prepared to guarantee the safe transit of the rebels out of the country.





Doubts grow over Cosby murder witness

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

POLICE faced a setback in their investigation into the murder of Bill Cosby's son yesterday as doubts arose over the credibility of their only witness.

A white woman in a mini-skirt and short fur coat who said she saw Ennis Cosby, 27, shot dead appeared to change her story during day-long questioning by

The only son of the much loved comedian had pulled off a freeway in a prosperous and relatively safe West Los Angeles neighbourhood to change a flat tyre on his Mercedes sports car when he

was shot once in the head early on Thursday.

Protest calls to CNN television after it broadcast pictures of his body beside the car in a pool of blood prompted an on-air apology. But television crews continued to iege the Cosby family homes in New

York and Los Angeles.
Police said that robbery was the most likely motive for the killing, even though nothing appeared to have been taken from the \$130,000 (£77,000) car. The mystery deepened with reports that when his tyre burst at 1.15am, Cosby was on his way to visit the woman who later claimed

to have witnessed his murder. He contacted her by cellphone and

asked her to drive out and help by shining her headlights while he changed the tyre, CBS reported. The station said that the woman, 40, changed her account during interviews with detectives, saying she drove away on seeing a white man approach Mr Cosby and returned to find him dead. She is said to work in the entertainment business and to have met Mr Cosby only days earlier.

The young man had a reputation for being unaffected by his father's huge wealth and fame. He was 6st 3in and was studying for a master's degree in remedial education. The most eloquent tribute to him came from his father: "He was my

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Norwegian nears pole

THE Norweglan explorer, Boerge Ousland, was last night just a few miles short of completing his epic journey across the Antarctic - alone, unaided and on foot (Roger Maynard writes).

Although he experienced whiteout conditions yesterday morning, 25 miles southwest of his target - New Zealand's Scott Base — he resumed his i,675-mile journey in the aftermoon. Staff at Scott Base forecast that he would reach there later today.

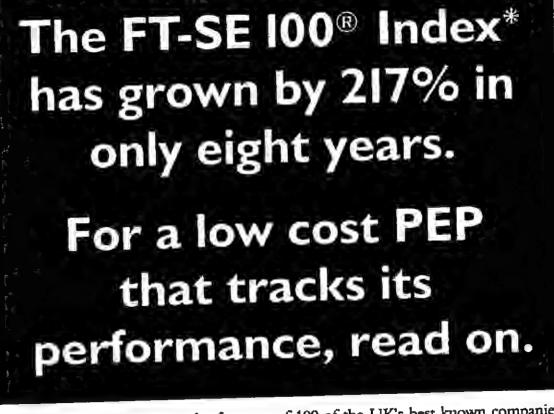
Some of the 45 people at the base were set to escort him on

first thing he wants is a cup of tea," said Julian Tangaere, New Zealand's Scott Base leader, who has been tracking This is Mr Ousland's sec-

ond attempt to cross Antarctica on foot. His last attempt rival, the British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, gave up on December 12 after suffering from kidney stones.

Mr Ousland, 34, who set out more than two months ago, is towing a sledge with

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Italian aristocrat of the art world battered to death

POLICE in Florence said yesterday they were baffled by the murder of an aristocratic art and antiques expert who was found battered to death in his elegant 14th-century palazzo.

Count Alvise di Robilant, 72, worked for Sotheby's for many years and was widely admired in the international art world for his courtesy, knowledge and charm. He was found on Thursday by his cleaning lady in his flat on the third floor of the Palazzo Rucellai in Via della Vigna Nuova, one of Florence's most fashionable

addresses.
Police said he was lying on the floor in his dressing gown near the plano in his drawing room, his skull apparently smashed "by a heavy object such as a marble ashtray or table lamp". Neighbours said they had earlier heard him playing Bach fugues on the piano. He had been struck at

Count di Robilant, who lived alone, was divorced from his American wife. Elizabeth (nee Stokes), whom he mar-ried in 1956. With his tall good looks and air of distinction, he attracted numerous female

He enjoyed a debonair lifestyle in Florence and Venice. where his family originated. The family once owned the palazzo on the Grand Canal in which Byron lodged, and he was a leading light in the international "Save Venice" campaign, conducting a pass-

ionate drive for the restoration of the Venice Arsenal. The Count spoke fluent English and moved with ease in the world of fine arts.

continuing to advise and act for Sotheby's in Italy after his retirement. His son, Andrea di Robilant, is the Washington Although Count di Robcorrespondent of La Stampa, and another. Filippo, is the spokesman in Brussels for Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner. Count di Robilant's brother, Carlo, who lives in London, was expected to arrive in Italy yesterday,

Julian Stock, the head of Sotheby's Rome office, said Count di Robilant had headed the Florence office of Sotheby's until his retirement in 1989. "I am devastated," he said.

Father's faith 'unshaken'

REGINALD GREEN, the father of an American boy shot dead by the Mafia. said vesterday his faith in Italian justice had not been dented by the acquittal of the alleged killers (Richard

Nicholas Green, 7, died when armed men tried to hold up the family's hired car in Calabria. Two mailesi were acquitted on Thurs-Nicholas's organs were donated for trans"Alvise was the perfect Italian gentleman, a man of enormous charm who never raised his voice and had no known enemies. He is the last person one would have thought would have met his end this

ilant's body showed no sign that he had fought his assailant, the apartment walls were covered in blood. The rooms had been ransacked, but police said none of his many valuable Old Master drawings, paintings and other art objects appeared to have been stolen. The computer in his study was still switched on, but the screen had been smashed, giving rise to speculation that information stored on discs or the computer's memory might provide a clue to the motive for the attack.

The front door of the apartment was unlocked, and the windows on to the terrace were open. But neighbours said this was often the case and the Count was "careless about security". His family had links with the Braganzas - the Portuguese Royal Family - and the Mocenigo family, which provided a number

of Doges of Venice. The palazzo in which he died is owned by another branch of his family, the Rucellais. Neighbours said there had been rows between the family and tenants of the building who allegedly had

Figure for Nazi loot in error

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

ILLICIT Nazi gold dealings with Switzerland were probably worth about \$116 million cabout £70 million) at the time. far less than was previously reported, the Foreign Office in London said vesterday.

In a revised version of a report on a 1946 reparations agreement concluded by Switzerland and the Allies, the Foreign Office in effect admitted that its researchers had made a mistake on a key

figure last September, writing \$500 million instead of SwFr500 million. British archives indicate that the amount was quoted by a Swiss National Bank official during

negotiations with the Allies. When it was originally published, the report on gold looted by the Nazis in occupied Europe triggered a storm of criticism and demands for additional compensation from Switzerland. The Swiss paid

SwFr250 million in 1946 in compensation for bullion that had bought from they Germany during the Second World War.

The Swiss Government welcomed the correction while regretting that "on the basis of incorrect information Switzerland has been condemned hastily and out of hand, damaging the country's image".

Sofia's old dictator dreams of making a comeback

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN SOFIA

ON THE snow-covered mountain high above the shabby streets of Sofia, an old man of 85 is watching the tragedy of Bulgaria's descent into economic collapse and political turmoil with grim satisfaction: Todor Zhivkov. the wily former Communist dictator who was overthrown in the East European upheavals of 1989.

Mr Zhivkov, who ruled Bulgaria with authoritarian ruthlessness from 1954, is under house arrest. But the house is large, comfortable and set in several acres of silver birches in the VIP residential area of Boyana, on Mount Vitosha. Close by is the medieval Boyana church, whose 13th-century biblical frescoes include a stunning Last Supper with garlic, radishes and bread — the staple Bulgarian diet - on the disciples' table.

Mr Zhivkov's former subjects are lucky nowadays if they can get hold of bread at all. The parliament, which reopened under heavy police guard on Wednesday after days of riots and street protests, has now approved the emergency import of wheat to avoid a complete bread shortage. The newspaper Trud said wheat stocks in Bulgaria would run out by March. Bread prices, it said, had risen elevenfold in a year. The average monthly wage is the equivalent of £12, with a loaf

Mr Zhivkov has taken to telling visitors that he had "always predicted" Bulgaria's descent into economic chaos after the fall of communism. The Bulgarian currency — the lev — has slumped to a tenth of its value against the dollar a year ago, and inflation is running at 310 per cent annually.

Are you looking for added growth

The people still love me, Mr Zhivkov told one visitor. They still call me Tato — Grandad." Mr Zhivkov's argument is that he anticipated Mikhail Gorbachev by trying to bring a form of "perestroika" to Bulgaria long before the former Soviet leader began Letters, page 23 to liberalise Russia. Seventy



per cent of exports were electronics and machine tools, "not potatoes".

The former Communists, renamed the Socialist Party of Bulgaria (BSP), were returned to power two years ago. But Mr Zhivkov insists they lack his "smack of firm govern-ment" and muses that the country may yet turn back to

This is not how many Bulgarians remember the old days, however. Opposition politicians such as Ivan Kostov, leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, recall that Mr Zhivkov was so servile to the old-style Soviet Union that at one stage he suggested to Moscow — according to re-cently opened party archives

- that Bulgaria should be-

come a Soviet republic.
Opposition leaders also recall that when Mr Zhivkov was ousted in 1989 he was charged with embezzlement of state funds and investigated for support for international terrorism and suppression of the rights of Bulgaria's one millon ethnic Turks.

As the wave of protests continues, more doctors are joining the strikes, saying hospitals can no longer afford to heat wards or feed patients, let alone treat them. One surgeon at a children's cancer ward said it was "at the end of its resources", and he would soon have to decide which of his young patients would live and which would die.



Zhivkov: "the people still love me"

Moscow hits back in war in war of the traffic offenders

FROM ROBIN LODGE

THE Cold War may over but the Russians still know how to

Two weeks after two diplomats from Russia and Belarus complained of being roughed up by New York police during a dispute over a parking ticket, the Moscow traffic police launched an experies in a complete the state of the police launched an experies in a complete the state of launched an exercise in reciprocity straight from the Soviet textbook.

The New York incident, in which the Russian diplomat said his arm had been broken, came after a spate of com-plaints by the city authorities that diplomats from the for-mer Soviet Union were abusing their immunity with repeated traffic offences. The diplomats said they were being unfairly targeted by the US authorities.

The state-run newspaper Rossiiskiye Vesti said yesterday that parking fines in New York had caused political confrontation", with a battle between the Russians' United Nations mission and the city authorities. More than 14,000 tickets had been issued to Russian dipiomatic cars last year, it said, while Sergel Layrov, the Russian Ambassador to the UN, had been given three tickets in one day.
This week rank-and-file

traffic police in Moscow disclosed that they were preparing a crackdown on foreign drivers in retaliation. Last night the police confirmed that they had carried out a two-day operation against cars regis-tered to foreigners, easily iden-tified by their red or yellow number plates, although a spokesman denied any onnection with the incidents in the United States.

"There has been a sharp rise In the number of accidents involving foreigners, so we thought it was time for a blitz," Viktor Priznyakov, of the Moscow State Motor Inspectorate, said. "It was the first of its kind, but I can tell you it will not be the last." According to the police, more than 200 offences were recorded, 26 cars were ordered off the road and 52 drivers fined. American drivers were found to be the worst offenders.

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"We consider that the French Government has committed a monumental error." thundered the government daily, al-Thawra, in a frontpage editorial. This inhuman attitude will harm France."

The tirade was seen as further evidence that the condition of Uday, 33, is far more serious than first admitted. It came just days after Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, praised France for leaving Britain and the United States to police the six-year-old exclusion zone over northern

Iraq.
France was Iraq's main
Western arms supplier before
the Gulf War and Baghdad still owes France about E3

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nd out

Queen Bee of press sets Washington buzzing

lofty American newspaper publisher. Katharine Graham, has astonished her family, friends and colleagues by writing a highly personal autobiography which includes details of her husband's philandering and his suicide.

Mrs Graham, owner of The Washington Post and regarded as a powerful woman of discreet taste, has unburdened her soul to a remarkable degree. In her book she not only chronicles her newspaper's distinguished coverage of the Watergate scandal and her business life, but also examines her failings as a wife and details the affair that her late husband. Phil, had with a young Australian reporter.

Before the book was sent to her publisher, Mrs Graham's daughter, Lally, asked her: "Are you sure you want to put this in?" Her decision to proceed was all the more remarkable given the queasiness of American broadsheets, such as the Post, when it comes to examining the private lives of public figures. Mrs Graham discloses that

her husband nicknamed her "Porky" and describes the mood swings of his manic depression which would lead eventually to his suicide.

R. W. Apple inr. of The New York Times, a veteran newspaperman and a friend of Mrs Graham, said yesterday that the American capital was surprised by the personal nature of the memoirs. "A lot of this stuff has been whispered about before but I didn't ever expect to see it in a book by her," he said. "Kay has written the book she always said she

In addition to the details

IN HER book, Katharine

Graham lays hare the events

surrounding her husband's

She recalls how she and

after lunch at their country

farmhouse. After a short

while he left the room and

hand retired to bed

letter that her husband wrote to her when it seemed their marriage must end - Mrs Graham describes her shortcomings as a mother. She also recalls her subservience to the overpowering Mr Graham, how she "seemed to enjoy the

role of doormat wife" and how

even after his death she was a

tremulous rabbit, liable to

include the almost-deranged

weep at bad news. The picture she draws of herself is very different to the collected newspaper propri-etor who has known most of the key figures in American politics in the past 30 years

and whose insistence on pro-

sound of a gun being fired. "I bolted out of the room and ran around in a frenzy lookfor him," she writes. When I opened the door to a stairs bathroom, were so ghastly that I just ran into the next room and bur-

led my head in my hands."

ceeding with the Watergate story helped to bring down the Nixon Administration. Mrs Graham, 79, also re-

flects on her close relationships with many of the politicians, such as Henry Kissinger and, early on in his presidency. Richard Nixon. Although she has long been regarded as an integral part of the classy Washington Establishment, she is viewed by friends as the Queen Bee of the "liberal media conspiracy" against the Right.
The Katharine Graham of

"Beltway" society, supremely connected, and supervising a handsome salon from her large, park-lined house in lown, will never be seen in the same way. Personal History may be one of the most surprising and candid self-portraits by a press baron.

Unlike some public figures, Mrs Graham wrote the book by herself. "Considering that she is not a professional writer, it is written pretty well," Mr Apple said. "In fact, she writes rather better than some of my reporters!"



Katharine Graham tells of her late husband's philandering in Personal History

Reclusive Salinger to publish first book in 34 years

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

J. D. SALINGER, whose The Catcher in the Rye became the totem of disillusionment for a generation, next month publishes his first book for 34

The reclusive author, 78, who has devoted his energies for three decades to shielding himself from public attention; has banned any publicity about the book; even details of the number of copies printed. News of the forthcoming publication leaked out despite his wishes through a bookstore's Internet pages.

However, to the disappoint ment of fans who had hoped for a further instalment of the Glass family, characters cen-tral to much of Mr Salingers fiction, the book, entitled Hapworth 16, 1924, is believed to be essentially a reprint of an-80-page story which took in almost the whole of the lune.
19, 1965, edition of The New

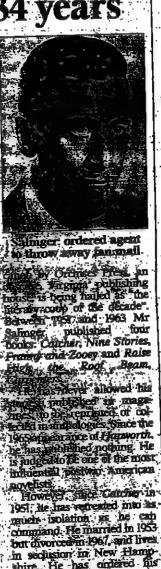
Yorker magazine. The narrator of the story is Seymour Glass, who features in many Salinger stories. The book takes the form of a letter to his family home from the seven-year-old Seymour while at summer camp. When first published, the story attracted savage reviews. The Los Angeles Times commented in 1988 that it "was widely regarded as narcissistic, prolix and editmately obscure in its intent. It has, however, remained a.

collector's nem. Authors John Updike and Mary McCarthy also argued that Mr Salinger's obsession with the Glass family, the subject of his novel Francy and Zooey, was damaging his fiction. Nonetheless, the publi-



in seclision in New Hamp-thire. He has ondered his agents to throw away fan mall

A few months ago he in-structed them to track down the author of a World Wide Web page devoted to his books; the page has been





Archbishop Tutu reading a card from a well-wisher

Tutu has operation for prostate cancer

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG sitting in hed watching the

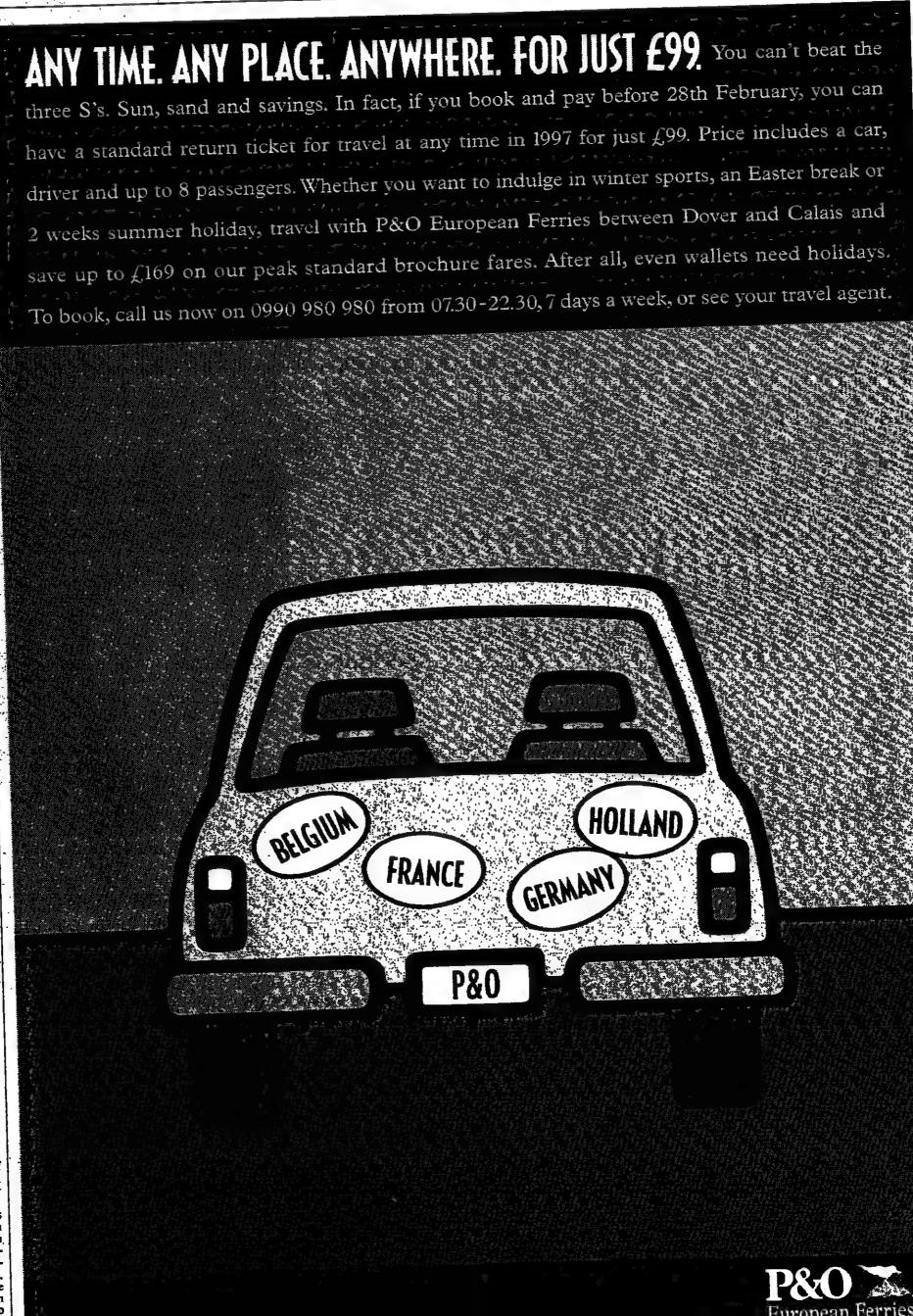
ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu, the former head of the Anglican Church in South Africa and 1984 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has been diagnosed as suffering from prostate cancer.

John Allen, his secretary, said in Cape Town yesterday that the archbishop, 65, had undergone surgery on Wednesday when most of the prostate was removed. More tests would be carried out to ascertain if the disease had

Archbishop Tutu sounded as cheerful as ever, when he was telephoned at a private clinic on Thursday. He said: The doctor is very pleased with my progress and I am

cricket the Third Test between South Africa and Indial. I expect to be in hospital until the weekend and off work for about three weeks. I would like to thank people for their wishes and prayers. He retired last June as

Archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and St Helena, but postponed plans to take up a study fellowship in Atlanta, Georgia, in order to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is hearing testimony about human rights abuses during the apartheid era.



New spouse of Czech President cracks down on 60-a-day man as fears about his health persist



Wife stubs out Havel habit

correctly Havlova) has started to crack down on her newly wed husband. Vasek, she has been telling friends, is strictly banned from lighting up; it is the beginning of the end of the 60-a-day man. Vasek, of course, is Vaclav Havel, the sardonic playwright, dissident intellectual and President of the Czech Republic.

In short, a man with his own mind. But he knows better than to defy his actress bride who started in such classics as The Vampire of Ferrata. In that 1970s film, still vivid in the memory, the future First Lady played a racing driver whose car turns her into a vampire by sucking blood out of her feet. One scene, particularly difficult to forget, shows her topless and nibbling the neck of Jiri Men-

zel, the film director. The Havel wedding this month took almost everybody by surprise, coming only eight days after the President left

PRAGUE FILE by ROGER BOYES

hospital. Mr Havel, who is 60, had half his right lung re-moved because of cancer. Doctors now say they have found a second, benign, growth and Prague rumours suggest that the President's prognosis may not be quite as rosy as has been suggested in official bul-letins. That may explain the rush to marry Dagmar, 43.

who is a long-standing friend. Mr Havel is certainly aware of his mortality. His first wife, Olga, his companion during the dissident years, died of cancer almost exactly a year ago, aged 62. He had no children with Olga, although he has gained a stepdaughter through his marriage to

That first marriage was regarded as one of the great love matches in the dissident movement, although he had his share of girlfriends. Vashek and Olga would talk books, drink coffee and, of course, smoke at the Café Slavia, the most remarkable of Prague's literary hangouts just opposite the National Theatre. One of Mr Havel's

ed in a communist prison, is entitled Letter to Olga.

Czechs, therefore, have had a hard time accepting his remarriage to a "lightweight" actress. Mr Havel says that Olga on her deathbed told him to remarry quickly because "I am not a man who can live

The smoking ban on Mr Havel makes sense for a man recovering from lung cancer,



Havel in the days before

kind of farewell to the dissident era. Central European intellectuals - Mr Havel or Jacek Kouron in Poland - are simply unthinkable without a cigarette drooping from their

It was part of the uniform: there was no other way to discuss Nietzsche or the Chiese human rights movement. Barbra Streisand once said that Mr Havel was the only man in the world allowed to smoke in her presence.

There does seem to be a gentle conspiracy to keep Mr Havel smoking in defiance of Dagmar. A last cigarette before the operation was puffed with the Health Minister, the chainsmoking former dissident Jan Strasky. The loyal chief surgeon said after the operation that it was "unclear" how far the cancer had been

caused by cigarettes. True to form, Mr Havel has intellectualised his dilemma. Previously an exponent of the libertarian school — everyone fully informed of the risks should have the right to smoke he now says that "the non-

smoker is a truly free person". Prague residents have little doubt that Dagmar will keep her husband on the straight and narrow. Her roles, apart from varnoires, include Catherine in The Taming of the Shrew and Lady Macbeth, both very instructive parts for

a First Lady. Sudeten German saga nears end

> jumble of feeding tubes. Herr Kinkel showed the Sudeten deal to the patient and Mr Havel scrawled a love heart on the paper and pointed to the German Minis-ter. Herr Kinkel clearly was

Drinkers cheer return of absinthe

ABSINTHE makes the heart grow fonder, espe-

cially in Prague. Before his 60th birthday President Havel ordered a crate of the potent pake green drink that has inspired poets and driven artists mad, made them blind and, in the case of Vincent van Gogh, rendered them ear-less.

Czechs, of course, are passionate beer drinkers and Prague men parade their distended stomachs like campaign medals. Now absinthe - banned almost every else in the world because of its alcoholic strength - has be-

come the fashionable drink Absinthe was created by the French 200 years ago as an elixir, and the healthconscious Czechs took to it from the start. Today it is part of the Prague or particularly among the many hundreds of American would be writers who believe that the Czech capital is the modern equi

lent of Paris in the 1920s. Hemingway, who learns something about about the as a young journalist in the French capital of the 1920s, recorded effer a Parisian drinking had "Got tight last night on absinthe and nice tricks." Havel's reaction to the arrival of his crate of absinthe is not known shortly after it was delivered, he went mader the surgeon's knife.

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of the few pro-German enthuslong-delayed document closiasts in the Czech political ing the chapter on the Sudeten Germans. When Klaus Kinkel, the President Havel, apparent-German Foreign Minister, visited Mr Havel after his ly, will be well enough to see the German leader and Herr

recent operation he found him

President is regarded as one

Judge puts foot down over ankle-kissing

Kohl says he is looking for-

HELMUT KOHL travels to

Prague next week to sign the

By RICHARD OWEN A FACTORY worker and selfconfessed foot fetishist was found guilty of "sexual vio-lence" yesterday for kissing a girl, 16, on the ankle in public. The man, 35, and named only by his initials, L.P., argued that he had been overwhelmed by a sudden fit of passion. But a court at

Bolzano, near the Austrian border in porthern Italy, ruled that he was guilty of ass The accused man sold the court "I know I did wrong. but womens' ankles drive me crazy." The Bolzano Judge, said L.P had assaulted the girl last August, when he stopped his car and accosted her the

"I thought at first he wanted

was a chiropodist compli-mented her on her finely turned ankles and offered to give her a "free on the 5000 dick up". The girl removed her sandel and lined her foot up, at which point - according to the prosecution - he

completely lost control". "He grabbed her leg before

to ask directions, the girl told kneeling down to plaster her police. Instead he chanced her ankle and then her entire feet ankie and then her entire her ficks, before biting her toes, the police report said. The girl screamed for ficip and her assistant grove off but his victim made a note of the police. The judge gave L.P. a

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■ OPINION

William Hogarth born 300 years ago, would have been astonished at how tame satire has become



OPERA 1

Andrew Shore plays the lead in an Opera North Falstaff that never achieves lift-off





OPERA 2

Listen out for Charles Workman, a young American tenor who has the opera world at his feet



ON MONDAY

What good is the Greenwich. Millennium Exhibition to us northerners?" Melvyn Bragg asks

The inexorable passage of time flabbifies the memory, as well as many other vital. organs. And I was only ten in 1964. But am I wrong in thinking that the last great period of Tory rule ended with a general election that was generally credited as a victory, not for Labour, but for a brilliant generation of satirists working in theatre and TV?

Well, you can guess the next thought that my tortoise-like mind is forming. Here we are, after 18 years that have not exactly been free of banana-skins, rotten apples and the odd dodgy orange. You would have thought that our stages would be crawling with young clever-dicks making merciless fun of our political masters and mistresses. Not to mention our masters' mistresses. And vice versa. Or "vice worser", as someone once quipped,

But where are they? True, we have as mordant a bunch of political cartoonists and sketchwriters in newspapers today as at any time in history. Private Eye

The stand-ups just won't be counted and its rival-come lately, Viz. hit more targets than they miss. A very small number of TV comes.— Rory Bremner, Ben Elton and the blissfully funny John Bird and John Fortune - are allowed to kick the odd political shin. And in our theatres a few stalwarts like David Hare still turn out plays that graze political knuckles.

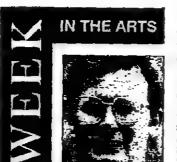
The overwhelming bulk of British culture, however, is astonishingly apolitical. Yes, our young dramafists: screenwriters and brighter pop lyricists do venture into social areas, but there is an ironic "what's the use?" melancholy about the writing, not a caustic "let's mock this lot to death" mentality.

Elsewhere, there is nothing remotely political to be found. The "installations" that dominate our art galleries are wrapped in so many bloody enigmas that any

intended political message is inde-cipherable. And our TV comedies are mostly bland vigneties of loutish manners, light years from the abrasive wit of Not the Nine O'Clock News or Yes, Minister. I never thought I would yearn for the return of the puerile Spitting Image, but I do. At least it showed that there was somebody out there, in the anodyne Birtlands of modern TV, with sufficient mischief to

throw a paper dart at Sir.

The depressing fact is that if
Stalin's censor-in-chief, Andrei Zhdanov, was reborn in modern Britain he would gape in admiration at the sullen acquiescence this Government gets from its arts community. "What's the trick?" he would ask. "Torture? Midnight calls on difficult theatre directors from your famed Special Branch? Raids on the Groucho Club? "No," we would reply. "The arts



RICHARD MORRISON

world decided that being troublesome was too much trouble." As if to point up the toothessness of our era, the terrentenary of William Hogarth's birth falls have a Hogarth, Pope, Swift or Defoe around now to puncture the windbaggery of a modern election with a few malicious barbs of 18th-

After all, they would hardly have to alter their scripts. Hogarth's The Election Entertainment, for instance, lampoons political sleazebags. Well, they ain't extinct yet. His Marriage ala-Mode would need few changes to mock the antics of our present nobility. His Four Stages of Cruelly, an indicament of man's inhumanity to animals, is as relevant in the BSE era as in the 1750s. And don't forget that topical little engraving. The Lottery, a furious attack on governments that turn

citizens into gambling addicts ... Why do we get so little sardonic commentary on our raddled political scene from the current bunch of creative people? Several readant. When British public life, at least as reported in the tabloids, emerges as one long, scarcely believable satire in reality, what is the point of caricature?

econdly, the ratings-ob-sessed TV companies are Scared of causing offence. They want talent that is harmless enough to amuse millions. By and large, they don't need to censor performers; the process is more subtle. All those wickedly alternative stand-ups who are so "dangerous" on the Edinburgh Fringe voluntarily tone down their acts for TV - since they all basically crave fame, fortune and the

approval of Important People. And thirdly, something similar goes on in subsidised theatre, it's not overt enough to be called selfcensorship. It's simply that when

theatre directors become too frightened of losing their subsidy. or of unsening local councillors, or of antagonising their largely mid-dle-class, middle-aged core audience, they will always tend to pick the safe Ayckbourn or Godber in preference to a biting condemna-tion of capitalism by the local

Angry Young Playwright.
That's the problem with subsidised theatre, of course, which its most fanatical supporters over-look. You think that public funding sets you free to be innovative and daring - but deep down you know that you won't bite the hand that feeds. The Soviet Union's

theatres were superbly subsidised. But when bishops make more controversial forays into political life than arrists or writers do, there's something wrong. Wake up, luvvies! Add a bit of creative spice to the debates of the day, Offend the great and the good. Mock the comic-strip Macbeths lurking in the Commons tearcom. You see, politics shouldn't be left to politicians. It's too funny for that.

OPERA: Rodney Milnes is disappointed by an unfocused first night from Opera North — but promises tonight's ENO audience an exceptional treat

Slim midwinter pickings

or some reason — irony? bloody-minded-ness? — Matthew Warchus sets his new production of Faistaff for Opera North in midwinter. Well. I suppose it's topical. The horse trough on which the Fat Knight collapses after his ducking is frozen over, and when Fenton launches into his aria in Windsor Great Park it promptly starts to snow. Quite apart from open-sir nookie being the last thing on any-

Falstaff Grand Theatre, Leeds

ankles

one's mind, it does all act as a bit of a downer on this sunniest of operatic comedies, and Laura Hopkins's deserminedly drab sets and cosespecially unlovely - are no help. The effect of a falseperspective street scene is spoilt by amateurish use of the child extras who are supposed

So the singers have to work hard to bring the show to life, and my goodness they do, with varying degrees of success. Andrew Shore wraps himself round the words of Amanda Holden's earthy and communicative translation with enormous relish, but there are. musical lines to be relished as well, and one longs for just a.



Frances McCafferty and Margaret Richardson (rear), Rita Cullis and Yvonne Howard (front) bring colour to Falstaff

little more warmth and variety. Shore's Raistaff is young. vigorous and not especially fat -at least not by my standards - and his occasional old-age stumbles should fool no one.

The melancholy post-ducking

monologue may be the high-light of his performance vocal-ly, but you aren't really made to warm to this foolish, fond old man — odd, with so inventive a performer and

Perhaps Rita Cullis sensed that Thursday's performance needed a good shake, and by the last act her Alice Ford had taken command of the stage with authority and wir, the experienced a director. gender-war, though, is in general underplayed. Robert Hayward sang consistently power-fully as Ford, and his blank, shell-shocked face at the start

of the jealousy monologue was the evening's single arresting visual image Frances McCafferty's mo-bile features and deliciously roly-poly figure made up for a certain lack of vocal weight in her Quickly, and Paul Nilon (Fenion) almost made you forget the hideousness of his

une with the simple elo-

quence of his phrasing. There's some undercasting

Paul Daniel ied a measured. rather careful performance: everything was in place from the attentive orchestra, everything audible in the pit and on stage as it should be, but the quicksilver wit of the score, its life-enhancing worldly wisdom, surfaced only intermittently, and the music never quite achieved lift-off.

A curiously unfocused first night. Something will need to happen before this shared production transfers to the ENO later in the year, apart from anything else, the toytown sets will look pretty silly on the vast Coliseum stage.

Ten out of tenor

ometimes you hear sing-ers so gifted that it's tempting to keep quiet about them in case the world finds out and takes them away, Rodney Milnes writes. So it was with the young American tenor Charles Workman, whose guest apnearances as Almaviva in the Barber and Ferrando in Cost at the Coliseum were so exceptional as to whet the appende sharply for his Lindoro in ENO's new production of The Italian Girl in Algiers, open-

ing tonight.
But it's too late to try to keep him secret: at last year's Rossini Festival in Pesaro he gave a sensational account of the technically terrifying role of Agorante in Ricciardo e Zoraide, and moved straight into the top rank of Rossini tenors. Salzburg is after him, he's going back to Pesaro this year for Moise, and has succulent engagements in Paris and Geneva. And he made his years ago.

e lives in London with his wife, the British composer Alexandra Harwood (daughter of the playwright Ronald), and two young children. The couple met at the Juillard, where Workman went to study almost by chance. He was, he says, "a fair planist and a good trumpet-player" — in other words, a practising musician. quite a rarity among opera singers, interest in theatre led to a degree at Drew University. New Jersey, where he learnt acting, directing, lighting, stage-management - the lot. He started to study voice "as a dilettante", found out he could sing, and one thing led

to another At Juillard he was lucky to find an exceptional teacher, Beverley Johnson, who also nurtured Renée Fleming. Workman remembers his study with her exclusively in terms of technique rather than vocal sound, and this is what makes him so fearless a Rossini tenor, equal both to decorations and to high-flying vocal lines, where his tone retains its

sweet, open quality. What of tonight's Lindoro? "It's one of the most daunting roles I've ever done — it's all so high, right from the opening cavatina. Maybe it's a matter of doing something a few times. There are 12 perfor-mances of Italian Girl so hopefully I'll start feeling a bit more comfortable by the end." ● The Italian Girl is at the Coliscum (0171-632 8300)



Charles Workman, pianist, trumpeter - and singer

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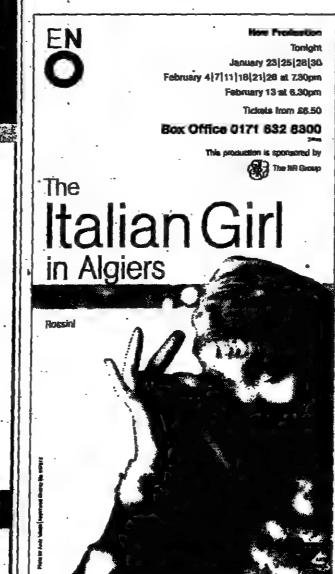
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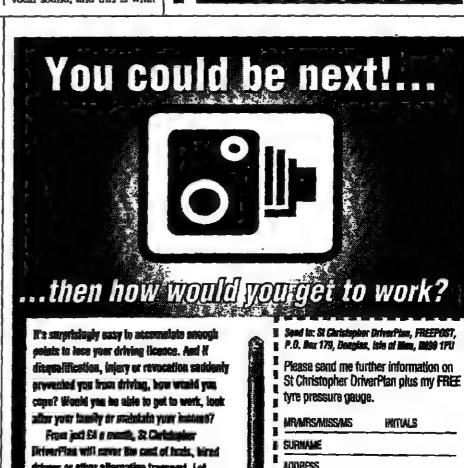
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Does Crosland's socialism have a future for Blair?

Anthony Howard on a philosopher

king who anticipated new Labour

things about Tony Blair is that he appears to have none. Asked whence he derives his inspiration. he may murmur something about Henry Campbell-Bannerman adding (not wholly selflessly) that the victor of the great Liberal landslide of 1906 turned out to be far more radical a Prime Minister than anyone expected from his period as Leader of the Opposition.

Yet in choosing among Labour's own household gods — Attlee, Bevan, Gaitskell, Wilson — he has, for understandable reasons. proved reticent to a fault. There exists, however, one different role model to whom Mr Blair might have been expected to attach his colours, although revealingly he has never done so. He is that great "revisionist" figure of the 1950s. 1960s and 1970s, the Oxford don turned practising politician Antho-

Two just-published academic studies on the legacy of the only philosopher-king produced by the British Left in the second half of the 20th century deserve to be required reading, at least in the present Labour leader's office. If nothing else, they demonstrate just how hard is the way of the transgressor against party orthodoxy in modern British politics. (Crosland tried twice, in 1972 and 1976, to become first deputy leader and then leader of his party, but was rewarded with a derisory vote on each occasion.)

He was, though, a wonderfully glamorous personality who ended up, if for all too brief a ten-month period (he died aged 58 in February 1977), as James Callaghan's For eign Secretary in the last Labour Government to hold office in Britain. But this was never his real claim to fame. That rests instead on the book he produced 40 years ago called The Future of Socialism and. to a lesser degree, on two volumes of essays he subsequently published. The Conservative Enemy

(1962) and Socialism Nov (1976). If any individual tried to provide a largely bemused Labour move-ment with a route map for its progress through a world a great deal more complex than that ever envisaged by Karl Marx (or. for that matter, by R.H. Tawney), then Crosland's claim to have performed that service remains

indisputable. be so reluctant to identify with him? in diagnosis there was certainly very little to choose between them. Virtually everything that Mr Blair has said since becoming Labour's leader in July 1994 about the need for the party to alter its base and change its appeal finds its echo in the various things that Crosland wrote during Labour's last period in the wilderness, between 1951 and

in particular, his famous Fabian tract Can Labour Win? uncannily predates the entire thrust of the Blairite approach towards modernising the party. The attack on the cloth-cap image, the questioning of the undue reliance on the trade unions, the apprehension that Labour suffered from being perceived as the party of austerity rather than of prosperity — it is all there. The difficulty and embarrass-

ment arise when it comes to remedies. However much of a "revisionist" he may have been perceived in his own age and time, Crosland remained an unrepentant socialist (who, like Mr Blair, would never have been tempted to join the SDP). As late as 1974, he committed himself to the view that "equality and higher public expenditure are what divides us from the Tories" -scarcely a message calculated to be palatable in today's Cromwellian Labour world, either to Mr Blair or to his Shadow Chancellor, Gordon

There was, inconveniently, a radical passion about Crosland's beliefs - he was, for example, an inveterate opponent of public schools — that would probably

an ideological pedigree.

One of the troubling

Control of the troubli

Rhetoric, though, is one thing: reality is quite another - and that was the story of Crosland's ministerial life. The Cabinet post he held for longest — 2½ years — was that of Minister of Education in Harold Wilson's first and second Governments. Here, it has to be said, his record was sadly disillusioning to all those who had taken at face value the bold, adventurous declarations with which he had excited a generation in The Future of

Like Rab Butler, who in wartime probably had a greater opportuni-ty, while doing his best to destroy the grammar schools Crosland did absolutely nothing about the public schools - merely kicking their future into touch via the palsied hands of a commission under Sir John Newsom, Worse than that, at the behest of his civil servants, he actually introduced — defying the Robbins report in the process - a steerage and first-class passenger approach to higher education through "the binary system". This deliberately established a form of academic apartheid between the polytechnics and the universities to shaming piece of snobbish discrimination that was left for a Tory. Kenneth Baker, to unscramble 21 years later). Not for the first time, a theoretician discovered that the practicalities of politics were rather different from those conceived in the ivory tower.

That is, no doubt, one reason why Mr Blair - who, to do him justice, has always set his face against raising expectations that he cannot fulfil — is shy of accepting Tony Crosland as his mentor. But there is another. It may sound a brutal thing to say but, despite his own far from emollient nature. Crosland consistently preached a socialism without tears. For him, economic growth.

which he took to be an unassailable fact of life at least in the modern Western world, was destined to provide the solution to all redistri-bution problems. If the cake got larger, then the rich would not mind if their share of it, while remaining roughly the same in absolute terms, became proportionately smaller. This was the alchemy that he saw as solving the central dilemma of democratic socialism. and about that, even while he still lived, he was proved demonstrably

ut it remains true that Mr Blair could afford to drink more openly at the Crosland fountain than he does. For one thing, though he got America badly out of focus, maintaining - against J.K. Galbraith - that a classless society was synonymous with an equal one, domestically he got a great many things right, including the fact that public ownership was never the socialist panacea that it was once supposed to be. On top of all that, he remained the debonair Cavalier of British politics who ripped the hair-shirt from the body of the Labour Party.

Perhaps the most eloquent state-ment in the whole of his classic work, The Future of Socialism, is the one in which he writes: "Total abstinence and a good filing system are not now the right signposts to a socialist utopia." That was interpreted at the time as a veiled attack on Sidney and Beatrice Webb who even exchanged wedding rings with the same motto pro bono publico inscribed on each of them. It is a measure of the curiously joyless. Roundhead message that Tony Blair. Gordon Brown - and Jack Straw, too - are currently delivering to the British electorate that it begins to look like a criticism of them as well.

Anthony Crosland: The Mixed Economy and Crosland's Future: Opportunity and Outcome by David Reisman are published by Macmillan Press at £45 each.

Roger Scruton looks forward to Palestrina, the greatest opera never before staged in Britain

ans Pfitzner's Palestrina
this month receives its
British premiere at Covent
Garden, 80 years after its first
performance under the great Bruno
Walter in this experts is due to Walter in Munich. The opera's neglect in this country is due to many factors, not the least being the enormous cast required for its second act, in which the composer amenuts the astonishing feat of staging the Council of Trent as music drama. Far more decisive, however, has been Pfitzner's resolute stance against Modernism, and his brave attempt to forge a style which would be the true successor to the Wagnerian, without departing from total harmony.
The quiet originality of Palestri-

na has nothing of the shock value which would recommend it to forward-looking directors, and it says much for the temper of our opera houses that this great opera is being produced in the wake of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's Die Soldaten — an exorbitant work which merely pretends to be origi-nal, while in fact being no more than a ragbag of Modernist cliches.

Palestrina concerns an imagined spiritual crisis in the life of the l6th-century composer Pierluigi da Palestring, when, during the Council of Trent, he is called upon to produce a Mass that would purify and renew the liturgical tradition of the Catholic Church. Into this simple

A musical offering to transcend our time

story Pfitzner reads another: his so that they fall upon their neighown predicament as a tonal com- bours. But everything happens natposer, heir to the great tradition of German Romantic music, in an age of musical iconoclasm. And also another: the condition of modern Europe, having thrown away its religion, and facing the void. One man's effort to transcend his sterility and loneliness becomes, in Phtzner's work, the effort of all of us to rededicate our earthly existence. and to face our inner life with confidence, despite the chaos and turnoil of the world outside.

From the very opening measures you hear the spiritual elevation of Pfitzner's music. Tonal it certainly is, in D minor with resonances of the old church modes. There are standard cadences and solid triads. Yet the harmonies are diverted from their natural tendency, and create an airy, spectral impression. For most of the magnificent first act we are presented with an ever-moving image of concord behind a veil of mild dissonance. Altered notes dislodge the structures above them.

urally, peacefully, and with the clarity of a true polyphonist. The effect is like an echo in the vault of some great cathedral, and the drama creates a similar impression - as though relayed to us over a vast distance, its worldly accidents refined away, and only the spiritual

Ditzner wrote his own libretto, and it is a minor masterpiece, containing lines of true poetry. The chastity of the music is matched by the purity of the characters, and even if you may wonder at the possibility of a drama in which the only woman -Palestrina's dead wife - is a ghost, this too has the ring of truth. The music gives reality and substance to this lonely, decent man, as he comes to terms with his three calamities: the death of a beloved wife, the self-destruction of Christian Europe, and the rise

There is in Pfitzner's hero an indissoluble unity between private affections and artistic ideals. Palestrina is an ordinary Roman bourgeois for whom marriage and home are necessities, and whose artistic life thrives upon domestic peace. His peace is calamitously lost, and with it his creative urge. But he rediscovers both, and finds through music a proof of the apostolic idea, at the very moment when the squabbles and intrigues of the Council of Trent are threatening to destroy it. The outside world may dissolve in chaos, pure power may strut on the political stage, but

the inner life remains and can be possessed through music. But the act of repossession is also an act of submission. The composer makes an offering of his music, on the altar built by the masters. To break with the past, to pour scorn on its inner wisdom, is to align oneself with the void. It is to lose the hope of inner peace, in a world

Serious painters, composers and Serious painters, composers and writers of my generation are familiar with the predicament portrayed in Pfitzner's opera. We know it from Britten. Eliot. Moore, and Thomas Mann — and it is a predicament that does not concern artists only. To all of us it bequeathed a cultural inheritance which has proved itself through the preatness of its works of art. But we greatness of its works of art. But we live in a time of loss - loss of faith and the natural affections which helped our forebears through their daily difficulties, and which inspired them to produce such permanent artistic records of their hopes and fears. Some of us seek to live without those things, and erect a pantomine of soom with which to fortify scepticism. Others decide instead to hate their inheritance, and produce nihilistic drivel like Die Soldaten, or art of the Turner Prize variety, designed to make a mockery of the creative act and so to deny the fact of creation. Others simply retreat into their private pleasure dome, turn on the telly and wait for the end.

But the art of our civilisation endures, a permanent proof that human life has a meaning and that in living for the moment we invite our own destruction. Like Goethe's Faust, we must learn to possess our inheritance and to make it our own. For it is the source of our values, and the only thing that lasts.

The Green Man's grimace

Ubiquitous mystery of medieval art, this demon is beyond good and evil

The head is of a handsome man of mature years. His brow is furrowed and his eyes have a slight squint. His mouth is open. From it, indeed from the depths of his throat, emerge two giant hawthorn leaves. These sprout more leaves curling up round his cheeks and down under his chin. They become his whiskers and beard. They garland his head, then leap off into space. Nuts grow among them and thrushes collect to eat the nuts. Man becomes nature. From a human mouth spew all the lush riches of the world.

The face is carved in stone, high on a corbel in Sutton Berger church in Wiltshire. It is of a Green Man, for a thousand years the most common, and mysterious, symbol in English art.

The Green Man inspired medieval sculpture, paint-ing, drama and dance. He gave his name to a thousand inns. living on in their pub signs. He is Jack-in-the-Green, Man-in-

the Oak, the woodman, wodwose, ivyman, woodhouse, perhaps the May King, perhaps even Bottom. The Green Man is the wild man

of pageant and heraldry. He abducts women into the forest and devours unbaptised children. Though he features nowhere in Christian symbolism. Green Men peer down from the roofs and out of the walls of half the medieval churches in England. Some Green Men have greenery sprouting from their nostrils, others from their ears, others from the hair. Some squint, some grin, some sneer. All are in the bizarre act of exuding nature from the orifices of their

I am intrigued by vast knowledge of minutiae. Somewhere on Namibia's Skeleton Coast is a man who leads safaris on his hands and knees with a magnifying glass. His prey are the insects coming up briefly for moisture at dawn. Those who return from such expeditions are mesmerised by the man's talent for bringing the minute to life. (Afterwards, they find dogs looking like elephants.)

Kathleen Basford is safari queen of the Green Men. This week she publishes a compendium of these creatures in all their glory. Her scholarship is microscopic rather than monumental. There is not much to say about Green Men'and what she has to say she confines to just 20 pages of text and notes. The rest of her book is photographs taken by herself. They are astonishing. She has travelled Europe in search of Green Men, her husband stooping beneath the weight of her

She has found Roman Green Men (in the guise of Bacchus) and Saxon Green Men. She has found Normans and Goths. Their foliate spume adorns chests, tombs, bosses, benches, doorways and screens. At Ely a Green Man has his tongue hanging out. At Win-chester the foliage appears to emanate from gigantic mous-taches. Green Men occur in Germany and France and one even races the façade of San Pietro near

Yet at the end we have no clearer idea of what these sinister characters really meant to their creators. Some time after the Reformation. all awareness of

their significance appears to have their Dark Ages past. To Basford they were "powerful fantasies of the cabre...The eyes glare balefully or stare unfocused into space, full of dark foreboding."

The earliest foliate heads occur in late-Roman art. Another student of the phenomenon, William Anderson, has traced them to as far apart as Baalbeck and Trier in Germany. But it was Gothic architects who brought the leaf into full flower. On a portal at Chartres, faces seem to emerge and recede from the centre of individual leaves, like Cheshire cats or the speaking trees in cartoons. In England, by the 13th century, an arboretum of motifs surrounds the face, hawthorn, hops, vines, ivy and the favourite

The most extraordinary effusion is in Southwell chapter house, where every niche is crowned with a face vomiting foliage. At Dorchester Abbey this act appears to cause the man intense pain. At Winchester he comes clothed and armed with sword and shield. At Lincoln he appears frantic to escape the ghastly vegetation growing from his mouth. At Ottery St Mary, in Devon, leaves sprout horribly from the pupils of the man's eyes. So particular are these portrayals as to defy generalisation that they are merely woodland demons. The nightmare figures are carefully delineated, as if referring to a specific message from the under-

Something was going on in the mind of these carvers, something that the pre-Reformation Church could not banish even from under its own roofs. Woods and forests



Green Man with hawthorn and birds, early 14th century, at All Saints Church, Sutton Benger, Wiltskire

dominated the English landscape at the time. Fear of trees was like fear of the sea. These mythical creatures of the woods are like the mermaids of the ocean. They were worshipped by the Druids. They were not just Green Men but nymphs and dryads, maypoles and

wicker giants.
Green Men are mostly very human. Expressing fear in human form is a familiar way of warding it off. The woodmen of old are the aliens and extraterrestrials of today. Hence the Jacks-in-Green of medieval pageant. Hence Puck. As Basford says: "It is when the fantasy is expressed most naturalistically that it seems most eerie and touches us most powerfully." What is extraordinary about

Green Men is that creatures so ostensibly evil should be celebrated not just as creatures of the forest but as fountainheads of nature. Equally odd is that this fountainhead should have come to domi-nate Christian iconography. The Green Man at times seems to preside over church worship. At Exeter he supports a Virgin and Child. At Southwell a Green Man

keeps watch over the heads of each. canon during their deliberations. Almost wherever the fruit of the forest is used to grace the portals of a church, a pagan face looms out asthe progenitor of greenery.

ome see in the Green Man

a portrayal of renewal, part of the pagan/Christian rit-ual of the maypole and Rogantide. If he is the English Primavera — and these carvers our native Botticellis — the Middle Ages must have been grim indeed. Basford rejects this interpretation. She sees the Green Man as in direct descent from the wood gods, often a version of the Devil himself. Another Exeter Green Man is stamped underfoot by the Virgin as the spirit of evil. No expression of life could be so universally ugly and disagreeable. If this is man going through the birth pangs of nature, his mouth as vagina, then the message is even more obscure. (There are no Green Women. unless the image above the door in Clare church can be so described.) I sense that we must leave the Green Man his Manichaean para-

dox. Whether evil or good, natural or spiritual, he has locked his secret away in stone. Perhaps he is just watching, as the past always watches, foretelling mortality. As the medieval verse goes: "So here's a thought your teeth to clench./: All greenness comes to withering." Yet he leads us, as Basford found. "to . some of the most beautiful places on earth, the churches and cathedrais of the Middle Ages. It is a strange demon that can lead us to such heavenly vistas."

The Green Man will have the last grimace. The natural landscape of the British Isles is not field or scrub or moorland. It is forest. Come Armageddon, leave agriculture to rot, and forest would again cover most of Britain. Trees will sene suburban gardens, motorway in-terchanges, hypermarkets and of fice blocks, as they seized whole monasteries after the Dissolution. Trees will invade the valleys and climb up the hillsides. In those trees we shall again see the dark men. their mouths stuffed with leaves.

The Green Man is published by Boydell & Brewer at £35.

Left out

LOST in the confusion of Nicola Horlick's career at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management may also be her longed-for political career. Mrs Horlick was set on a career as a

Labour politician. Last year she attended a private City lunch with Peter Mandelson, the Labour MP and campaign director. Her office and immediate staff, among them Carl Sternberg. a fund manager in his late twenties, have been an important stopping-off point for Labour's sallies into the City.

Like Matthew Harding, the late Chelsea FC director and reinsurance whiz, who had hopes of being a Labour Cabinet minister. Mrs Horlick often spoke of how she fancied a role on a Labour government front bench. Her extraordinary business success, coupled with her homeliness - she was known around the office as Brenda. particularly after it was discovered she was a keen knitter - would have doubtless propelled her upwards in the Harriet Harman

mould. Now, however, she has fled to Frankfurt to lobby her German bosses. This comes after frantic nights and days on the telephone as she marshals her supporters, and an embarrassing tussle with Morgan Grenfell's personnel director in the lobby of her old offices.

All of which is bad news. Like dour German bankers, there is little new Labour hates more than a

Dole cheque

FORMER Senator Bob Dole, the losing candidate in last year's American presidential election, is to appear in a television advertise-



ment for a credit card company. Mr Dole, who is fast becoming the most popular loser in American politics, was paid an estimated \$500,000 for the commercial for Visa International. He intends to

give a "sizeable portion" to charity. The minute-long advertisement, which will be broadcast in the United States next weekend on the night of American football's Superbowl, shows Mr Dole visiting his home town of Russell, Kansas, and, although being welcomed by the locals, finding it impossible to buy provisions with a cheque. "It

looked like a lot of fun, it showcases my home town and it's a nice break. from working on my inaugural address" - a wry recognition of the fact that had the election gone the other way, he would on Monday have been sworn in as President.

Noodled

FROM my drawer of confusing hotel instructions come these two clauses found at the Victory Hotel

in Guangdong, China:

"5. Strictly forbid to go whoring, drug taking, gamble and engaga in speculation. Strictly forbid to spit

anywhere, strictly forbid scribble.
"7. Don't permit fighting, excessive drinking in hetel. The Protection Dept. of this hotel will handle the trouble maker, order of the hotel influencer."

Flat footed

MICHAEL Flattey, the petulant dancer who once starred in

Riverdance, has dismissed his management company. John Reid Enterprises. Not so long ago. Flatley parted company acrimoniously from Riverdance to set up his own company, managed by John Reid, a hugely respected figure who

"Are you trying to get on my

has successfully managed Elton John for 20 or so years. We have been informed that

Michael Flatley no longer wishes us to act as his manager, says a spokesman for Reid. "We regret we have no alternative but to recognise that the relationship cannot continue in those circumstances." All these manoeuvrings will be of special interest to Princess Margaret, a keen Flatley fan, who has been to see Riverdance four times.

Geronimo

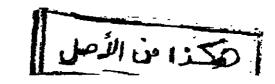
WHILE Diana, Princess of Wales, highlights the plight of mine vic-tims in Angola, her ex-husband has also decided to broaden his portfolio. He has become patron of the British Parachute Association.

A tentative 'chutist himself - he has made a couple of jumps, neither particularly distinguished the Prince nevertheless believes in the rigorous discipline and the refreshing nature of the sport.



Prince of Wales: jumper

"in a world such as we have today, goes a long way towards preparing some of our youth for the society of tomorrow." Earl Howe sees nothing contentious in the Prince's statement.





THE OLD BILL

Howard has moved some distance, but not far enough

The arm of the law should be long but not decisions reached by senior police officers infinite. The original provisions of the Police would be scaled back. Bill, which permitted the bugging and bur-glary of private property with the blessing of a chief constable, failed to find an appropriate balance between efficiency and liberty. At one stage the tacit collusion of the two front benches seemed enough for it to sail through Parliament. Protest at the offending clauses has ensured that rigorous scrutiny will be applied when the measure meets the House of Lords next week.

Both Michael Howard and Jack Straw have moved some distance over the past few days. Stung by the accusation that Labour was ditching its traditional concerns for civil rights in pursuit of electoral rewards, the . Shadow Home Secretary has sought enhanced authority for the judiciary over the surveillance procedure. Mr Straw is now much closer to the position occupied by, among others, the Liberal Democrats: Abandoned by his accomplice. Mr Howard has deftly offered a raft of concessions designed to meet the torrent of opposition that has flowed from the legal establishment and elsewhere.

The Home Secretary's amendments are not insubstantial. The Government would now oblige chief constables who authorised such actions to notify the commissioner, a senior judge supervising this whole procedure, as soon as was practicable. In cases of unusual sensitivity, such as those involving doctors, lawyers, or journalists holding confidential information, the commissioner would be consulted within 48 hours. The period over which such covert operations could be conducted purely on the basis of

Such alterations are to be welcomed as far as they go. But they are essentially procedural in nature and do not go far enough. The fundamental objection to this legislation has always been rooted in the principle that judges are better placed to weigh the relative merits of a police investigation against the liberties of individual citizens. The latest proposals from Mr Howard would tighten the subsequent scrutiny available to the commissioner over chief constables but would still place them in a secondary role. The core power of

encroachment on British freedoms. The stance now taken by Mr Straw is not completely satisfactory either. His suggestions would make prior approval from judges the norm but could grant a disturbingly large number of exceptions. Labour needs language of greater precision before the qualms of those concerned with civil liberties should be completely calmed.

initiating such inquiries would reside with

the police. This remains an unacceptable

Little evidence has been brought forward by the Home Office to explain why granting the judiciary such influence would undermine the effectiveness of this bill. Unless such an argument could be produced, and then found completely compelling, the House of Lords should exercise its proper function of review and reject this legislation. There is still time for Mr Howard to avoid a confrontation with the Upper House. The Government could accept that prospective consent from judges was essential. It would be well advised to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Heath rebuts charges of misleading public on Europe

From Sir Edward Heath, MP for Old Bedey and Sidcup (Conservative)

Sir, It is a pity that Lord Beloff, formerly Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford, did not address himself to the historical facts in his letter of January 15 (printed under the false heading "Britain's goals on joining Market") rather than indulging in suppositional fantasies which bear no relationship to the political and economic facts of life.

Britain never did set out to join "a market". We negotiated with three communities, the Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the Atomic Energy Agency, each of which was far broader and deeper from the outset than a market. Together they have now become the European Union.

I opened negotiations with the Six in Paris in October 1962 with an application for membership of the Treaty of Rome, the introductory paragraph of which runs "determined to establish the foundations of an ever closer union among the European peoples",

I stated: "In saying that we wish to join the EEC, we mean that we desire to become full, wholehearted and active members of the European Community in its widest sense and to go forward with you in the building of a new Europe,

In my conclusion I said: "We in the United Kingdom will regard the successful conclusion of these negotiations as a point of departure, not as the end of the road." This speech was published in full and circulated by the

Government as a White Paper. In my speech to the Ministers of Western European Union in April

Sir, Michael Howard (letter, January 10) asserts that the Police Bill strikes

the right balance between giving law-

enforcement agencies the ability to

use up-to-date technology and provid-

ing effective safeguards against abuse

[see letters, January 8, 14]. It does not

eavesdrop on the private conversa-

tions of anyone who speaks to a law-

yer, journalist or doctor. They do not

have to be the subject of, or even con-

The Police Bill would allow the

police covertly to enter, search and

lawyers, doctors and journalists. The

Bill undermines clients' right to confi-

dential communication with their

lawyers, and has no provision protect-

ing confidential communications held

with journalists, health professionals

and others. The Bill does not even re-

quire the police to obtain judicial au-

thorisation before these powers can be

The Home Secretary argues that

there will be a new avenue for redress

for complaints, to a commissioner, but

obviously in most cases the individual

will not be aware that there has been

covert surveillance. Where surveil-

lance is discovered the commissioner

can only consider a complaint on nar-

row judicial-review grounds and will

not be able to give reasons for any de-

cision. The Bill also prevents the com-

missioner's decisions being question-

Bill tabled by the Labour Party (report, January 17), which broadly

meet our concerns. Those proposed by

We hope that these serious defects

in the Police Bill can be remedied dur-

the Government do not.

We welcome the amendments to the

ed in court.

nected to, an investigation.

The Bill extends police powers to

From the Chairman of the

Bar Council and others

1962 I stated. "... you yourselves have decided that those who want to join the Economic Communities as full members must also join the Political Union. I am sure that this was the right decision. If this European Union is going to achieve the great things which we confidently expect of it then. in our view, it must be political as well as economic. As members we should want to strengthen its political development." This was also published as a White Paper.

The negotiations lasted for lo months. At each stage I reported to the press in Brussels and at the airports, followed by a full statement to the House of Commons, accompanied by questions. These were spaced out by full debates. All of this received immense publicity in the press, on radio and television. There can, therefore, be no justification for anyone to claim that they were not given the fullest information.

After my Government reached agreement with the Six in 1970 the results were published in full in a White Paper which was soon widely read, and the shorter version of which was delivered to every household. The consequent debate in the House of Commons lasted for six full days. My party had a free vote at the end and 69 Labour members refused to observe their three-line whip and our majority in the debate was 112.

My last words in winding up the debate were "... tonight when this House endorses this Motion many millions of people right across the world will rejoice that we have taken our rightful place in a truly United

ing report stage in the House of Lords

on January 20. Failure to do so will

have profound implications for us all.

Definition of new bugging powers in the Police Bill

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT OWEN

TONY GIRLING

JOHN WADHAM

21 Tabard Street, SE1.

of Staffordshire Police

pass "under my nose".

by the judge.

Yours faithfully.

JOHN GIFFARD,

Cannock Road, Stafford.

From the Chief Constable

Sir, I find the statement in your leader

of January 14, "A BUL too lat", that my

colleagues and I "are bound to be less

sensitive to the rights of the individual

than a judge" to be little short of offen-

sive. I, for one, welcome the safeguard

of independent scrutiny by a commis-

sioner and, as at present, by Her Maj-

esty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Matters of such seriousness do not

Incidentally, the inference in your

article that evidence obtained by in-

trusive surveillance may not, under

the present law, he used in court is in-

correct: I know of at least five of my

colleagues who have given evidence of

this nature which has been accepted

For my part. I follow the guidelines

on evidence rigorously, knowing the

decision may be scrutinised in court.

Furthermore, I have operational com-

mand of this force and believe this to

be very much an operational matter.

Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police,

Staffordshire Police Headquarters.

for which I can be held accountable.

(Director, Liberty),

c/a Liberty.

January 17.

Chairman, Bar. Council.

Europe."
The referendum vote organised

three years later by the Labour Government supported what we had done with a massive two-to-one majority. Why then should Lord Beloff bother us with his suppositions? The structure of the Union is sui generis. There has been nothing like it before and it will develop its union further in its own way. We make a contribution to it when we choose to do so, as one of the four major powers in it.

There is no sense in complaining of laws from outside our borders" when our political leaders will have played a full part in the making of them: nor should we be indignant at only having one representative on the European Court of Justice, which is the same as we have on all other international courts outside the Union.

Lord Beloff also appears to be suffering from selective loss of memory when he winds up by writing that "policies dreamed up elsewhere could ruin the livelihoods of many of your fellow citizens". Surely he must have heard the present Government declaring that, after over 20 years in the Community, Britain has the best employment record in the Union?

It is Lord Beloff, unfortunately like so many others in Britain today, who is suffering the inferiority complex which makes him want to get out of the Union. Those of us who worked for our membership and continue to support it have complete confidence that we can fully play one of the leading parts in the ever closer union of the future.

From Sir James Sharples, Chief

Constable of Merseyside Police

Clauses 91-97 of the Police Bill.

Sir, Lord Alexander ("A Bill that sub-

verts the rule of law", January 16)

gives a misleading and inaccurate as-

sessment of the proposals under

No one doubts the very genuine

concerns of those who rightly wish to

see in place procedures that recognise

and defend the civil liberty of our citi-

zens. There clearly needs to be a bal-

ance between the powers of the State

to combat serious crime and individ-

ual freedoms through a proper and

accountable system. In my view the

Lord Alexander broadly dismisses

the role of the commissioner, which is

a vital and necessary safeguard, per-

haps to support his misleading con-

tention that the "police are to be

judges in their own cause". Nothing

of the Bar Council, clearly has little ex-

perience or understanding of the prac-

tical considerations surrounding the

use of police tactics and of the need for

the Police Service to act decisively and

expediently against those responsible

for increasing and disturbing levels of

serious crime. He admits that "wide

powers may in some cases be neces' sary" to fight this battle. Experience

has shown over many years that these

powers are vital and that any changes

to current proposals will cause serious

damage to our capacity to combat ser-

Chief Constable, Merseyside Police

(President, Association of

Chief Police Officers, 1995-96).

PO Box 59, Liverpool L69 IJD.

Yours faithfully.

JIM SHARPLÉS

Merseyside Police,

January 17.

Lord Alexander, a former chairman

could be further from the truth.

Bill achieves such an aim.

Yours sincerely EDWARD HEATH. House of Commons.

Author defends an unbiased 'Eagle'

From Mr Jack Higgins

Sir. Your excellent report on the German war with Hollywood (January 14) unfairly includes my novel, The Eagle Has Landed, among your examples of portrayals of the typical "Hollywood Nazi".

Eagle went completely against the trend in war novels in its approach, When my publisher asked me what it was going to be about I told him that German paratroopers disguised as a Polish squadron in the SAS were to parachute in to kidnap Winston Churchill, who was spending a quiet weekend in Norfolk.

My publisher told me it was the worst idea he had ever heard of: how can you have a bunch of Nazis rrying to get Churchill? You've no heroes The public will never go for it. He then put the phone down.

The point was that, based on my own experiences on security duties on the East German border where, owing to lack of troops, we had to employ many German veterans of the Second World War, I realised that only a minority of Germans had been members of the Nazi Party and that millions had simply been called up, just like us, to fight for their country with no option. In other words my novel was about good men fighting for a rotten

The results were exceptional: a novel published in 58 languages, republished in Moscow and Peking again last year, 26 million copies all told. Interestingly enough, I have also received over the years many letters from both Germans and those of German extraction, saying thanks for showing that it was possible for a German soldier to be both decent and honourable.

May I add that the enduring, possibly unique, success of the film on TV around the world speaks for itself.

Yours faithfully. JACK HIGGINS, Septembertide. Mont de la Rocque St Aubin, Jersey, Cl. January 14.

Chester Cathedral From Mr John Makinson

Sir, Your report (News in brief, January 13) might suggest that the replacement of the nave floor in Chester Cathedral is an act of vandalism. Far from it. Quite simply, the floor is worn out. It has been patched and repatched — frequently in concrete — to such an extent that further partial repair is no longer sensible.

Much as the Dean and Chapter. and the Fabric Committee, respect the aims of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the cathedral is not a deserted monument, but an active centre of worship. The floor must be made even and safe for the many worshippers and visitors, about a million last year.

As for the heating, congregations in the 21st century will expect a warm church - and if Mr Gavin Stamp had sat through a service during the past formight, even he might have wished

Yours faithfully. JOHN MAKINSON (Secretary, Cathedral Fabric Committee). S Lache Lane, Chester.

Bide-a-wee

From Mrs Stephen Morse

Sir. You report (January 14) that the proposed retirement home for pets to be built in New York is "believed to be the first of its kind in the world".

For many years there has been, on the outskirts of The Hague a "tehuis woor bejaarde dieren" - in other words, a "home for elderly animals". I do not suppose it is so lavishly equipped as the one in New York promises to be, but I am certain that the animals there receive plenty of tender loving care - which is probably more important to them.

Yours faithfully. LORNA MORSE, 16 Bateman Mews, Cambridge. January 14.

Winning colours

From Mr Alan Shuback

Sir. Instead of changing their kit every few years, the England football team (report, January 13) might take a hint from baseball's New York Yankees. who have retained their identity as well as their winning style without ever having reverted to uniform changes in search of new revenue.

The ubiquitous Yankee cap, surely the single most popular item of sporting gear in the world, has remained unchanged for nearly 80 years.

Moreover, the Yankee uniform white, with navy-blue pinstripes and a navy "NY" logo over the heart - is virtually the same as Babe Ruth wore in 1923, the year the Yankees first won the World Series.

Since that date the Yankees have won the World Series 23 times, while England, with its ever-changing kit, have managed just a single World Cup title.

Respectfully yours, ALAN SHUBACK. 313 West 75th Street. New York, NY 10023.

HIS FELLOW AMERICANS

Brevity and principle should be Clinton's watchwords

On Monday, Bill Clinton has to deliver an inaugural address from the steps of the US Capitol. In the past the President has tended towards talks of considerable duration. History suggests he should instead seek out a text shorter in length and longer in principle.

The two most memorable inauguration speeches, by wide acclaim, were provided by: Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy. Both were brief. Lincoln had already mastered this art form. His 272-word address at Gettysburg far eclipsed the two-hour effort from Edward Everett that preceded him. In 1865 he took the oath of office and offered a: mere 703 words to his assembled audience. But in that limited space his strategy towards the shattered South - with malice towards none: with charity for all" -- was outlined with the utmost precision. Lincoln's magnanimity for those who had opposed him in the Civil War, and passionate desire to *achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace", shone through with every sentence. Kennedy could not be quite so concise. Nonetheless, his 1,300 words in 1961 were the shortest formal oration of this century. This first inaugural to be witnessed by millions worldwide via television established his reputation as a public speaker: Like Lincoln he chose one theme alone and stuck with it. For Kennedy it was the responsibility of his generation to prosecute the Cold War. To "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship in order to

"assure the survival and success of liberty". Politicians are rarely so terse by choice. In each case there was an accidental element. The Washington to which Lincoln spoke was known to be awash with Southern spies and sympathisers. A prolonged monologue by the President was thought impolitic. That sentiment was well-founded. Forty-one days after his plea for reconciliation, Lincoln was slain in the city by John Wilkes Booth. With his demise went what limited hope remained for harmonious reconstruction.

Kennedy rewrote his remarks right up to the day of delivery. Uninspired by initial drafts he dropped policy detail after detail. The freezing temperatures of that winter ultimately forced his hand. Fearful for the health of Robert Frost, whom he had invited to read his poem The Gift Outright, Kennedy made the final cuts.

Mr Clinton might consider all this before standing before his countrymen. The best course, not only to ensure a well-received speech but for his second term. identify that one aspect that he would like to be remembered for and keep that as his focus. In his early tenure the President frequently tried to change too much on too many fronts. If the next four years are to produce more progress, then a different tack has to be taken. Priorities must be picked and followed consistently. If that can be properly presented in the minimum of paragraphs, so much the better.

If the White House has been sold opposite advice it might consider the fate of William Harrison. On the coldest inauguration day since records began he spoke for 100 minutes. Not surprisingly he caught a chill which quickly turned to pneumonia. Harrison died 31 days after assuming office.

Mr Clinton is unlikely to suffer Harrison's fate. But he will want to emulate those more illustrious figures. Lincoln and Kennedy exploited this ceremonial event to define their political objectives. If this President could match that even in a modest way he would be well served. The time is not to ask what Americans can do for him, but what he can now do for Americans.

A BROTHER'S HAND Petrol prices

The Chief Rabbi is right to attend the Gryn memorial

In the Hebrew Bible, there is no more poignant passage than that in which Jacob is reconciled with his estranged brother Esau. The news of Esau's imminent arrival with 400 men terrifies Jacob: Esau's envy and hatred of his younger brother, destined to greamess, had caused their mother to send Jacob away for his own safety. Jacob entreats God: "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children." But when the brothers meet, they embrace and weep, and Jacob offers all that he possesses, "for therefore," he declares, "I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me."

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, will perhaps take heart from the story of Jacob and Esau when he contemplates the all too public conflict which has divided British Jewry ever since the death of the distinguished progressive rabbi Hugo Gryn. Dr Sacks, the leader of the Orthodox community which embraces the majority of affiliated Jews in Britain, did not take part in Rabbi Gryn's funeral service last year, and was promptly criticised by members of the Reform movement. Now Dr Sacks has eagreed to attend the secular memorial gathering for Rabbi Gryn and has come under fire from the conservative wing of his own United Synagogue, whose organ, the Jewish Tribune, has accused him of aiding

Reform Judaism's "quest for recognition". The Chief Rabbi replies that the memorial meeting will take place under the auspices of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Council of Christians and Jews, of which he is president and which Rabbi Gryn strongly supported. Although this dispute may appear obscure and unedifying to Jews and gertiles alike, it raises profound and unavoidable questions. Orthodox, Reform and liberal Jews do not agree on the interpretation of God's law, and none of them takes theological differences lightly. The history of rabbinical Judaism is one of dialectical exegesis. God's purposes only become clear through debate; and sometimes honest and learned scholars will disagree. A small minority of Orthodox Jews rejects dialogue with other Jewish denominations, and for that matter other faiths, as conferring legitimacy on heresy and idolatry. But Dr Sacks surely represents the vast majority of his community in this unostentatious tribute to a man whose endurance in Auschwitz bore eloquent witness to Jewish survival. In life, they shared in commemorating the Holocaust: it would be absurd for that partnership of common humanity to be sundered in death. If the story of Jacob and Esau teaches us

anything, it is that reconciliation is always possible between brothers; far more unites the Jews of this country than divides them. The great enemy of reconciliation is not hatred, but fear. The historian Bernard Wasserstein has warned of "the withering away of Judaism as a spiritual presence in the lives of most Jews in Europe". Some Orthodox Jews react to this danger by retreating into a spiritual ghetto. By reaching out to other members of the extended Jewish family, the Chief Rabbi has shown that he, at least, is ready to face European Judaism's greatest challenge. Before Jacob was reconciled with Esau, he had first to wrestle with the angel.

From Mr Kenneth Grundey Sir, I have noticed that the price of pet-

rol at garages near my home seems to be converging on a single figure (60.9p for premium unleaded). At the same time, at least two of the major retailers are promising not to charge higher prices than local rivals.

It occurs to me that promises not to charge less than rival retailers are not inconsistent with tacit agreement between major retailers not to compete on price. Is the consumer being taken for a ride?

KENNETH GRUNDEY, 25 Amersham Hill Drive, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. January 17.

Mezzanine melodies

From Mrs Carol Tullo

Yours etc.

Sir, On reading of the new "crossover" chart (letters, January 15) I was reminded that at Christmas I was given a CD of the type that leatures in the chart. On asking my brother if he had ever heard of the musician (who was new to me), he replied that it was a good example of what he called superior lift music".

This admirably descriptive term of art has entered our family vocabulary.

Yours faithfully, CAROL TULLO 38 Friern Park, N12. January 16.

> Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -

Mirror, mirror · From Dr Anne-Carole Chamier

Sir, For years I have had to travel with a heavy magnifying mirror in my luggage because hotels and clubs rarely provide one. Cheap, lightweight versions are worse than useless. There must be a substantial proportion of travellers with less than perfect eyesight who would welcome the provision of a glass that would enable them

to apply make-up or shave with ease. If it were too costly to make a magnifying mirror a fixture in every bathroom, a few portable ones could be made available on request. For many of us they are not a luxury, but a necessity.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant. CAROLE CHAMIER. Achandunie House, Ardross. By Alness, Ross and Cromarty. January 16.

In the steps of Todd From Dr D. H. Marrian

Sir, As a "Toddler" myself. I enjoyed

Dr Sharp's letter (January 16) about the late Lord Todd. I also recall that, in 1962, The Chemical Society set a Christmas competition to compose a Chemist's

Prayer along the lines of the Fisherman's Prayer. Alex, who had been a fisherman, was amused to read one of the entries: Lord give me leave to build a lab So large that when I've trod

Its vasty naves and aisles I'll think I'm in thy house - Oh Todd! Yours etc, DENIS MARRIAN. Trinity College, Cambridge.

From law to pulpit From Mrs Breda Smith

Sir, What a joy to read the article on William Agley (From the law to the pulpit", January 13). So often nowadays we hear the bad

news from the Roman Catholic Church. It was so good to read of a young man who has changed career and gone into the priesthood with his eyes and mind open.

I pray that he will continue to be open about difficulties he will face, in particular the issue of celibacy. I hope he will continue to find emotional support from his non-sexual friend-

William, be assured of a place in my prayers. Yours sincerely

BREDA SMITH. 15 Farm End. Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire. January 15.

Undercover message? From Mrs Beryl Wakefield

Sir, My daughters and I have noticed an annoying feature on our recent purchases of Marks & Spencer briefs. For countless years the labels have been stitched into the righthand seam - a quick guide when dressing in a hurry. But last summer the labels

With an election pending, is this a subtle hint to thousands of British

Yours etc. BERYL WAKEFIELD. 56 Wissage Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

moved to the left.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

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January 15.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK January 17: The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply. BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 17: The Princess Royal. Patron, the Home Farm Trust, this

morning visited Old Quarries, Avening. Tetbury, and was re-ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes). Her Royal Highness later visited

Stunehouse Community Centre, Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse. The Princess Royal. Patron. the Home Farm Trust afterwards

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens

Advice Bureaux, this afternoon visited the Cheltenham Citizens Advice Bureau, 14 Royal Crescent. Cheltenham.

The Princess Royal, accumosnied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening visited the Roses Theatre, Sun Street, Tewkeshuty, to criebrate their Twenty First Birthday and was received by Colonel Richard Conwell-Rogers (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of YORK HOUSE.

ST JAMES'S PALACE January 17: The Duchess of Kent. Colonel-in-Chief. The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of York-shire, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Binns on assuming command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Le Brun on relinquishing

Royal engagement

TODAY: The Princess Royal, as Patron of Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland's Wales international rugby match at Murrayfield at 2.45.

The Society of Schoolmasters

The Society of Schoolmasters is a registered charity and helps rered teachers and their dependants in need. The Society was founded after a meeting of Head-masters on January 12, 1707. In the former Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand. To mark the bloentenary members of the Committee anended Eucharist nearby at St Clement Danes on January 12. 1997, and afterwards had luncheon at the Lyceum Tavern. The Secretary. Doltons Farm, Wo-burn MK17 9HX, can send details to potential donors or recipients.

Barrow Hills School

Easter Term began on January 8 and ends on March 26. The St Juseph's Technology Centre was opened by His Enginence Cardinal Basil Hume. Archbishop of Westminster. OSB. on January 16. Open Day will be held on February 8 and the entrance examinations will be held on February II. The Senior production of Treasure Island will take place on March 21.

Church news

The Rev Roger Broughton: to be Chaplain of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover (Canterbury), The Rev Michael Cain, Curate, St

Francis. New Mackworth: to be Vicar. St Luke's, Derby (Derby). The Rev Dr Neil Burgess, Director of Clergy Training (Southwell): to Team Ministry: same dioosse.

Appointments in the Forces

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce to be Deputy Chief of Defence Procurement (Opera-tions) and to remain as Master General of the Ordnance from December 20, 1996.

MAJOR GENERAL Brigadier J D Stokoe to be Deputy Chief of Staff Headquarters Land Command in the rank of major-

general from January 6,
Major-General D Pigott to be
Director General Development and Doctrine from January 6. Major-General M D Jackson to be Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of lieutenant-

general from January (3. Brigadier P A Chambers to be Senior Army Member. Royal Coliege of Defence Studies, in the rank of major-general from December 20, 1996.

Latest wills

Ezra John Morris, of Bessacurr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left E9,639,303 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives. Bernard Cassel, of Bowdon, Al-trincham, Cheshire, left £1,570,063

Joseph Rigg, of Norden. Rochdale. Lancashire, left El.364,114 net. He left £5.000 to Rochdale Rugby Union Football Club and £1.000 ib Norden Cricket Club.

Leslie Burdett, of London SW-t. left £1,088,394 net. Frederick Goodman, of London W4. left El.539.511 net. Jack Voyna Leslie Kemp, of Seaview, Isle of Wight, left estate

valued at £1,240,000 net. Linda Audrey Michael of Pontardawe, Swanses, West Glamorgan, left estate valued at £1.035.116 net.

Appointment

Sir Alistair Grant to be a Trustee of

Dinners

Royal Society of Medicine

The Lord Chief Justice and Lady Bingham of Cornhill were received by Dr Paul Knapman, President of Medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine, and Mrs Knapman, at the annual dinner given by the society last night at I Wimpole Street. Sir Christopher Paine. president, and Ludy Paine were among the guests.

Arbitrators' Company

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were present at a dinner given by the Arbitrators' Company last night at the Mansion House, Mr. Douglas Smith, master, presided. The Lord Mayor accepted a cheque for his appeal for the Cancer Research Campaign. Mr Clifford Dann and Mr Jan Menzies, senior

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland The Association of Angesthetists of

Great Britain and Ireland cele-

brated 150 years of the use of ether and chloroform in anaeuthesia at a dinner on Friday, January 17, 1997, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lune, London, The President, Dr W.L.M. Baird, and Mrs Baird welcomed the guests who included: Baroness Cumberlege. Dr Richard Smith, Guest Speaker, Professor R D Millier, San Francisco, Ohmeda Health Care Lecturer, Dr and Mrs R S Attinson. Dr and Mrs A I J Brain. Professor Str Donald and Lady Campbell, Professor T Ceell Gray, Professor T E J Healty, Str Donald and Lady Irvine. Dr and Mrs I M Lyons. Dr A Macora. Dr and Mrs I M Lyons. Dr A Macora. Dr and Mrs I M Nunn, Mr And Mrs E Phillipp. Professor and Mrs M Rosen. Str Keith and Lady Sykes. Professor and Mrs M Rosen. Str Keith and Lady Sykes. Professor and Mrs M D A Vickers. The Association also entertained as Ruests the Presidents of the Societies of Anaesthesia of the European Countries together with their Chairman. Professor G Rolly Belgiumi, and his wife.

Weekend birthdays



TODAY: Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Common

wealth Secretary-General, 64: Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 7tc Mr

Peter Beardsley, footballer, & Sir Michael Ben, former chairman,

Social Security Advisory Committee, 62; Mr John Boorman, film

director, 64: Mr Raymond Briggs,

illustrator, 63: Professor M.J.

Brown, clinical pharmacologist,

46; Mr David Burke, Chief Con-

stable. North Yorkshire. St. Mr

J.R. Carr. former chairman,

Countryside Commission of Scot-land, 70: Mr Kevin Costner, actor,

42: Mr Richard Dunwoody,

jockey. 33: the Hon Sir Rocco Forte, chairman. Sir Rocco Forte and Associates. 52: Sir William

Goodhart, OC, 64; Mr D.J. Grant.

Lord-Lieutenant of Co Durham. 75: Sir James Hann, former chair-

75: Str James Frank, forther chair, man, Scottish Nuclear, 64: Sir William Harding, diplomat, 70; Sir Robert Hicks, MP, 59; Sir Tercrace Higgins, MP, 69; Mr John

Hougham, chairman, Acas, 60; Mr David Howell, MP. 61; Mr

John Hume, MP, MEP, 60; Mr Edward James, diplomat, 80; Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former

chairman, National Trust, 76: Mr

Paul Keating, former Prime Min-

BIRTHS: Charles Louis de

Secondar, Baron de Montesquieu, philosopher, Bordeaux, 1689; Jo-seph Farwell Glidden, farmer,

inventor of barbed wire, 1813; Sir

Edward Frankland, chemist, Churchtown, Lancashire, 1825;

Alexis Chabrier, composer, Amert, France. 1841; Manthew Webb, first

Dawley, Shropshire, 1848; Ruben Dario, poet, Metapa, Nicaragua, 1867; A.A. Milne, children's writer

and dramatist, London, 1882: Ar-

thur Ransome, author, 1884; An-

triur ransorne, aumor, 1884; Antoine Pevsner, sculptor, Ord, Russia, 1886; Cary Grant, actor, Bristol, 1904; Danny Kaye, actor, Brooklyn, 1913.

DEATHS: Jan van Riebeck, sur-geon and founder of Cape Town, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1677: Sir John

Pringle, physician and President of the Royal Society 1772, London, 1782; John Tyler, 10th American



Dr David Bellamy, botanist, writer and broadcaster, is 64 today: Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, will be 42 tomorrow

ister of Australia. 53; Sir Martin Laing, chairman, John Laing. 55; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 73; Sir Nigel Strutt, former chairman, Strutt and Parker (Farms), 81; Sir Walter Verco, former secretary, Order of the Garter, 90; Sir Rainh Verney, landowner, 82: Sir Clive Whitmore, civil servant, 62.

Anniversaries

President 1841-25, Richmond, Viz-

ginia, 1862; Edward Bulwer-Lyt-ion, 1st Baron Lytton, novelist and

politician. Torquay, 1873; Rudyard Kipling, first British writer to be

awarded the Nobel Prize for Lit-

erature, 1907, London, 1936; Sir

Cecil Beaton, photographer, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, 1980.

Captain Cook discovered the Sand-wich Islands (Hawaii), 1778.

William of Prussia was proclaimed

as the lat German Emperor, 1871.

Captain Robert Scott and his expedition arrived at the South

The Versailles Peace conference

BIRTHS: James Watt, inventor,

Greenock, 1736; Auguste Comte. philosopher, founder of Positiv-

ism, Montpellier, 1798; Robert E. Lee, Confederate C-in-C in the

American Civil War, Stratford,

TOMORROW

Mr Peter Atkinson, MP, 54; Mr Julian Barnes, writer, Si; Miss Nina Bawden, novelist, 72: the Earl of Carnarvon, 73: His Honour Sir Jonathan Clarke, 67; Mr Michael Crawford, actor and singer, 55; Mr Bernard Dunstan, painter, 77; Mr Sefan Edberg, tennis player. 31: Mr Phil Everly, singer, SR Mr Richard Francis, racehorse

Virginia, 1807; Alfred Mynn, crick-

eter. Goudhurst, Kent, 1807; Edgar

Allan Poe, writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1809; Sir Henry

Bessemer, pioneer of steel produc-tion. Charlton, Hertfordshire, 1813;

Paul Cézanne, painter, Aix-en-Provence, 1839: Augustine Birrell, politician and writer, Wavertree, Lancashire, 1850: Janis Joplin, rock

DEATHS: Hans Suchs, poet and

dramatist, Nuremberg, 1576; Wil-

liam Congreve, dramatist, London, 1729: Pierre Proudhon,

The first air raid on Britain by

German appelins in the First World War, Great Yarmouth and

The Japanese invaded Burms,

Mrs Indira Gandhi became In-

dia's first female Prime Minister,

singer, Texas, 1943.

socialist, Paris, 1865,

King's Lynn, 1915.

Mr Robert Palmer, singer, 48; Miss Dolly Parton, country music singer and actress, 51; Señor Javier singer and actress, SI; Senor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General, United Nations, 77: Mr Bryan Pringle, actor, 62: Mr Malcolan Reilly, rugby league cuach, 49: the Duke of St Albans, 58: Mr John Spencer, former Headmaster. Berkhamsted School, 74: Sir John Stanley, MP, 55: Mr Gary Tidey, MEP, 47: Mr Keith Topley, former sentor master. Queen's Beuch Division, 61: Mr David Tredimick, MP, 47: Mr lvor Ward, television producer and director, SI: the Earl of Wemyss and March, KT, 85.

trainer, 51; Mr W.K. Goldsmith company director, 59; Mr William

Hayden, former chairman, Jeg-

nar, 68; Mr Wayne Hemingway, fashion designer, 36; Mr Hans Honer, bass baritone, 88; Sir Alex

Jarratt. former chairman, Smiths Industries, 73; Mr Richard Lester,

film director, 65; Mr E.C.S. Mac-

pherson, chief executive, 3l Group, 55; Brigadier Helen Meechie, fur-mer director, WRAC, 59; Mr

David Newbigging, former chair-man, Rentold Group, 63: Mr Nigel Nicolson, author, 80.

The Institute of Mathematics

The following have been granted Chartered Mathematician status and Fellowship of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications: Dr M.H. Aliabadi, Mr R.N. Barkwill, Dr P.M. Becker, Professor D. S. Broomhead, Dr C.T. Brown, Dr M. Burmester, Dr C.J. Chapman, Dr D.J. Corn, Mr A.J. Daw, Mr P.C. Devlin, Dr K. Paralmand, Professor A. Fokas, Mr J.T. Glover, Dr J.P. Grubert, Professor S. Haberman, Professor K.S. Hindi, Dr N.A. Hoffmann, K.S. Hindi. Dr N.A. Hoffmann, Mr J.A. Howarth, Dr A.C. King, Dr M. Koijam, Mr W.K. Leung, Dr J.D.M. Linn, Dr A.C. McIntosh, Dr P. Oliver, Mr D.J. Parks, Mr N.D. Pickles, Mr I.A. Robertson, Professor Y. Sergeev, Ms S.A. Starkings, Professor I.A. Stewart, Professor C.M. Strange, Dr N.R. Todd, Dr J.J.R. Williams, Dr J.M. Williams, Dr D.C. Wood. Dr J.M. Williams, Dr D.C.Wood, Dr P.D. Yardley.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain M.E.J. Burton, RA. and Miss M.C. Ewer The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Major General and Mrs Edmund Burton, of Chester, Cheshire, and Michelle, daughter of Major General and Mrs Graham Ewer. of Andover, Hampshire.

Mr L.F. Driscoll and Miss K.A.M. Green The engagement is announced between Lee Francis, elder son of Mr and Mrs Lee Driscoll, of Philadelphia, USA, and Katherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Green, of Hognaston.

Derbyshire. Mr W.R. Postor and Miss E.L. Shaw The engagement is announced between Rupert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ramsay Feuon, of Cross Hills, North Yorkshire, and Emms, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Shaw, of Walton, Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

Mr D. Hanks and Mrs M.C. Cearley The engagement is announced between Dele Hanks, of St Catherine's Court, London, W4, and Marion Carter Cearley, of Bedford

and Miss L.K. Farnsworth The engagement is announced between Simon Shrimpton, of Highgare, London, and Lucy Farnsworth, also of Higheater

Landon. Mr D.J. Tarsh and Miss D.M. Young
The engagement is announced
between David, eldest son of Mr

and Mrs Nicholas Tarsh, of Richmond-upon-Thames. Surrey, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Alicen Young and the late Mr Reginald Young. of Garsington, Mr P. Tucket

and Miss A.S. Bisset The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs William Tucker, of Waterlooville, Hampshire, and Anna Sophia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bisser, of Rush Green. Hertiord.

Mr R. Toliso and Miss A.R. Falcone The engagement is announced between Raffaele, only son of Mr and Mrs Vincenzo Tulino, of Surrey, and Antonella. eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Salvatore Falcone of London.

RHS annual awards

BY ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICALTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Horticultural Society offers a number of awards each year to acknowledge and encourage excellence in horoculture.

This year marks the cente-nary of the highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour. The society has announced the recipients of the VMH for

Mr John Hillier, expert on hardy plants, particularly trees and shrubs, and president of Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire; Mrs

Penelope Hobhouse, of Beniscombe, Bridport, Dur set, internationally renowned gardener and horticultural consultant, designer, writer and lecturer; and Mr Charles Notcutt, the chairman and group managing director of Notcutts Nurseries, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, which is also celebrating its centenary

this year. The Lawrence Medal for the best exhibit shown to the society during the year has been awarded to Hillier Nurseries for its exhibit of trees. shrubs, roses and ground cover plants at the 1996 Chelsea Flower Show.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Epiphany
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8
HC: 10.15 5 Euch: 6.30 Choral E.
ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch;
Modal Euch (M White), Glorious is thy Name
(Modarti, The Dean: 3.15 Choral E. Wood in C
milinor, Almighty and Everlasting God
(Gibburs).

Pole, 1912.

opened, 1919.

TOMORROW

Cibbans,
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 NP. 9.15 HC:
IJ Chural Euch. Darke in E. Collegium Regale
Howelist, Ubi cantas (Durufte), Ven T Raphaet;
4 Choral E & Ceremony of Carols. Wood in E.
Ceremony of Carols (Britieri.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 1) Service
to commemorate Defence of Rorke's Drift.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL College Criter: 7,40 M:
8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Adoramus te Christe
(Lassus, Missa Bervis Carderi, Ave Marie (Bairin Birling), Canon A Reddem: 1,50 Choral E Blairin Birling).

Simpson.

CADEIRIAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 3 Holy Euch: 9.45 Borrol Weddi. Benedicius Emyrau: 1 I Choral Euch. Ireland in C. O God who by the leading of a star (Antwood, Jubijate Deo Britieni: 3.15 Choral E. Moeran in D. Ascribe unto the Lord: 5 Cymun Bendigaid, Emyrau.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 S
Euch: 9.30 M: 11 S Euch, Mass fur five voices Byrdi. Tris sunt munera (Esquived). The Arrhdescon: 3.15 E. Wood in D. God is with us CTaveneri: 6.30 Wed. of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev D Staple.

CARLISTE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S

Unity, Rev D Staple.

CARUSEE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC. 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Régale (Howells), Ave verum corpus (Mozard). Fantasia in F (Mozard). Rev B Brown: 3 E, Carlistle Service (Lloyd). Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers)

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC. The Acting Provosi: 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight: 11.15 S Euch. Darke in E. Blessed are those servans (Moeran). Rev 1 Moody; 6 Choral E. Deron in F. The Shepherds' Farewell (Bertlog). Rev J Jones.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Limny; 8 HC: 10 Euch; 11.30 Choral E. Linny; 8 HC: 10 Euch; 11.30 Choral Euch. Little Organ Mass (Haydri). Rt Rev W Siba: 11.30 Choral M with Saptism. To Deum a Jubilar (Stanford). Canon T Dernite: 3.30 Choral E. Howells in G. Like as the Hart (Howels): 6.30 Evening, Canon T Demats: CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. Ordand & HC.

T Dennis.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDE AL, Orderd: 8 HC.

10 M & Sermon, Inbidiale (Britten). Caron Webster. 11.13 S. Euch. Missa D. quam gloriosum (Victoria). Ormes de Saba (Handl). The Precentor 6 E & Collège Prayers, Parcell in Bb. Lo! Star-jed chiefs (Crock).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: B. Communion: 10.30 Euch. Missa Salve Regima (Langlais). O. Lord increase our faith (Loosemore). Lowe one another (Wesley). Rev M. Fuller: 3 German Lütherans: 5 E. O. Lord increase our faith (Loosemore). Lowe of the chief. Stanford in A. Bethold the Lamb of God (Handel).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Caron M. Perry. Behold the Lamb of God (Namder).

DURHAM CATHEDRAIL & H.C. CAMON M Perry10 M, Boyce In C. The Biersed Son of God
Vaughan Williams). Canon R Coppin: 11.3

H.C. Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev O Canen: 3.30

E. The Fifth Service (Tomicins). Verbum cano
lactum as (Hass)let).

ELY CATHEDRAIL 8.15 HC. Rev D Green: 10.30

S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Jubiliate in E
flat (Berkeley). Jubiliate in E flat (Britten). O
magnum mysterlum (Poulenc). The Dean: 3.43

E. Bullock in D. Susanul fart. Preptel.

ERETER CATHEDRAIL 8 HC: 9.45

ERETER CATHEDRAIL 8 HC: 9.45

Leighton in D. Tamum ergo (Paurè). The Dean:
11.15 M. Te Deum (Ireland in F. Look up sweet
basic (Berkeley), Canon D Ison: 3 E. Dyson in D.

Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers): 6.30 Evening, There shall a star (Mendelssohn), Preb.) Scott. Guildpord Cathedral: 8 HC. Ray Dr. 1 Fisher: 9.45 S. Euch. Stanford in G. 8 Blat. O salutaris hostis (Eigar). Canon J Schoffeld: 11.15 M. Jubilste (Rutter). Quem vidistis pastores (Patter), Canon D Styant: 6.30 E. Collegium Repale (Howells). O magnum mysterium (Gabriell: Mr. P. Jenkins.

HEREFORD Cathedral: 8 HC. 10 Euch. Laudists norman Domini (Ive., Strathort in G. O salutaris hostis (Goviand). The Chancellor: 11.30 M. Jackson in G. Almighty and everlauting Gud (Gibbors): 3.30 E. Toe Quem? Styring (Stanford). Dye linje flock (Anmer), Tev. J Summers. i summers. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MF: 10.30 Buch. Toe bedis of 51 Martin 5 (Faterson), Like as the hart Howells, Fr D Campbell: 4 Choral S. Nice la E flat. Jesu Joy of man's desiring (Bach). The Prosented The Presentor.

The Presentor.

ICHPIELD CATBEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Such, Jackson in G. Jubilate in 8 that Stanford.

Videnics widlern Pouterod, The Presentor: 3.05

E. Sunniore in G. When Jackson we Lord (Mendelssohn).

LINCORD CATHEDRAL: 7.48 Ubann 8, 12.30

IIC: 9.30 Euch; Presentation of RAF Chorister Medal, Rev M Lovelers; 11.15 M, Stanford in 8 fact, When Jesus Christ was yet a child (Tchallowsky). The Chancellor: 3.45 E. Glodioster Service (Howells), Quem videnic pastures (Poulend). Euch, Canon M Boyling: 3 Choral E, Rev G Davies: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany: 8.

LJ.15 Hoty Euch, Rev Dr J Beldwin: 9 Perish Euch, Rev Dr J Mildwin: 11 Euch, Minss Brevis Euch, Rev Dr J Mildwin: 11 Euch, Minss Brevis Eerchely, Here O my Lond. 1 see the face to lace (Williams). Here M Tornilroom: 130 Council of Churches week of prayer for Christian unity: 6.30 Parish E & Sermon. The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP, 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). The Three Kings (Cornellus). Canon A Radciffe.

Sale E, Rusbourdons (Byrd), Insante et wanse curse (Haydin). Canon A Radciffe.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC. The Provost: 9.30 S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). View me. Lond [Lloyd. Capt D Disper; 6 Choral E. A Prayer of King Herny VI (Ley). Stanford in C, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar). 6 Choral E. A Frayer of king Herry VI (Leg). Stanford in C. The Spirit of the Lord (Etgar). NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch. Jackson in G. Listen sweet dove (twest, Christ ynder Hert zum Jordan kam (Bach): 6.30 Wood in E flat no 2. The spirit of the Lord (Etgar). NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MF: 8, 9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Covocation Mass. Are verum corpus (Mazari). R. Rev C O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton: 3-30 Rousry Calo. Set me as a vest (Wallond). R. Rev C O'Connor. Bishop of Arundel & Brighton: 3-30 Rousry Calo. Set me as a vest (Wallond). R. Rev W Westwood: 6 EP: 6-30 Healing & Reconciliation, Canon R Hammer. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 Library. B.15 HC: 9-30 M. Boyce in C: 10.30 Ruch, Missa Aedis Christi (Hashlass). The Chancellor: 3-30 E. Sumston in G. Behold, how good and Joyful (Wang). PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9-30 Parish Communion & Commissioning of Servers. Petersfield Mass (Mawry). Are maris stella fortes). Canon Hedger: 11 S Euch, The Call (Vaughan Williams). Darke in E. Prayer of Mother Teress (Perguson). Postfude in D minor Stanford, The Provens are Jellurg (Haydri). Canon A Wilkinson.

RIPON CAPHEDRAL: 8 Euch. The Dean 8-30 Mrv 30 Parish Euch. Darke in F. Gloria (Perrira). Teach the O Lond (Anwood). Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.50 Chorai Euch. Missa Asterna

(Vicioria). Rev F Driver.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M. To
Deum Riswelis Collegium Regale, Myrris
rankincense and gold (Ridout; 10.30 8 Euch &
Mathodist Creent Service, Darke in E. Myrris
runkincense and gold (Ridout; Rev & Lernar,
3.15 E. All poor men and humble (Relly), Wood
in F. Look up sweet babe (Berkeley). 3.15 E. All poor me'n and humble (Kelly), Wood in R. Look by sweet babe (Berkeley).
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Christoper Love: 10 Such. Sarum Mass (Leighton), Lufty, letta (Leighton), Christopher Love: 1.30 M. Te Deum in 9 Bat (Stanford), Jubilate in 8 hat Stanford), Jubilate in 8 hat Stanford, Jubilate in 8 hat Stanford, Jubilate in 8 hat Stanford, O'er the hill and o'er the diale (Carol), 3 E. Mistrill In E. When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem Demolessohn).

SHEPFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10 MP: 10.30 S EUCh. Wass for iour voices (Byrd), Omnet da Saba (Hand) The Provost: 11.85 Test for the Days 6.30 The Eulphany Procession.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev D Fainter: 11 Choral Euch, Five pair mass (Byrd), Euch Cathedral, Rev D Puinter; 3 Choral E. Jackson in Cathedraly Cod which by the leading of a star (Bull) RF H Cantille. (Bulls MEY H Childred, TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, 0 sing joyfully (Briners), Missa Asterna Christ Muners (Palestrica), The Librarian; 6 E, Wood in F, We praise thee, O God (Stanford), The Münera (Palestrias), The Librarian; 6 2. Wood in F. We praise thee, O God Stanford, The Curale.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Bauter, 915 Parish Communion, Non Nobis Domine (Byrd), Rev C Ogie; 11 Sciente Buch, Wakefield Service (Blebty), Rev C Hawke; 4 Brepling, Collegium regale (Wood), Almighty God, Wilch by the leading of a star (Bull).

Canon H East:

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.45 S Each, Mass for four volces (Byrd), Ver R Activitie; 11.50 M & Holy Sprism, Stanford in 8 fist, 0 most merciful (Bullock); 3 E, Collegium Regale (Howells, When Jesus was our Lord (Mendelssohn), Very Rev R Lawis

WESTROMINISTER ABBERT: 8 HC, 10 M, Short Service (Gibbons), O Lord give thy Holy Sprism (Pallis), Canon D Gray: 1.15 Buch, Mass in hour parts (Byrd), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), O sacrdote (Gibbons, O Lord give thy Holy Sprism (Pallis), Canon D Gray: 1.15 Buch, Mass in hour parts (Byrd), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), O sacrdote convivuity. Sar De Amini (Byrd), O sacrdote convivuity. Sar De Amini (Byrd), O sacrdote (Gibbons, Carles), Parise out Lord all regenities (Byrd), Rev Dr A Campbelis; 5.45 Rectial: 6.30 Evening, Rev B Fenton.

WINCHRSTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M. Jubliane (Collegium Regale), A spotiess rose (Howells), Rev C Stewart: 11.30 Seuch, Missa O quant gortosum (Victoria): 3.30 Welcome Service.

TORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, 10 S Buch, Missa Fersiva (Peeeral, Rev M Massden: 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holso), Jubliane (Walton): 4 Hc; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Beat Guorum via Stanford, Rev E Gra; 3.30 Choral E, Lot starled chab (Cront).

ST ASAPH (ATHEDRAL: Chyde 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Beat Guorum via Stanford, Rev E Gra; 3.30 Choral E, Lot starled chab (Cront).

ST ASAPH (ATHEDRAL: B HC; 9.30 Cyonun Bendigsid, Y Deon; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Dean; 6 Choral E, Brewer in E Isa, Behold the laborate (Harris), The Canon.

ST EDMINDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; Rev R Davey; 10 S Euch, Davey in S Euch, Davey

o I.M.; 11.30 Solemn Mass. Rev B Longley.

ST Giller CATHEDRAL Edinard: 10

storning HC, Miesa brevs, Marinist, The
Minister: 11.30 Morning, Surge Illuminare
Pelestrinal The Minister: 6 St Glies at Sir.
Edinburgh University Break Breemble; 8

Evening, Rev E Watson,
ST MANTS CATHEDRAL Leaders: 8 Ench;
10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Kodaly), The
Presentor: 3.30 Choral E. Jens Service
[Mathias]. FT MACHAN'S CAPHEDRAL Old Alleviden: | I Morning, Agrou-Del (Morley), Make a loyful polse (Mathues), Rev R Preser; 6 Evening, Rev R Preser; ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC, 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tyc), Benjichem Hilborn.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX, SW7: [6,50
Divine Lituray and Blessing of Water, Kleven
and traditional polymborn.
ALL SAINTS. Mangaret Street, WI: 8,5,15 LM:
9,20,967; J. HM. Saintsennesse Odgard, Rev [
DRV108; 6 R.B.R. The Pourin Service [Beder], The VICES.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, WI: 9
Communion: 11 Membership Sunday, Freb R
Sewess, 6.50 Membership Sunday with
Orthestra, Rev R Titz. THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: 11 Mass for four voices (Tallis, Lauda Slou Irulandina), O Salumuts (Wilton)
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, 5W3; 8 HC; 10 Children; 1 M, Mary Magnificat (Carter), Rev Dr P Elby; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr D Royce. WI: 11 Sunday School CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covers Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev & Bood: 6.30 Rev J McNahor. FARM STREET, WI: 8, 930, 1230, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, BOLY TAINTY EXONIFTON, Broundern Read, SW7:9 ASB HC, Mr.J.Jennings; I Morning, The Bishop of London; S.7 Luformal, Rey N Cumbel. Being of Lordon: 5.7 Informal, Rey N Gumbel.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, 5W7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7:3.30 V & B.
ARMEDIAN APOSTOLIC CHORCR: Nerma Gais, WS: 11 Holy Mass, Archibishop Y Gizidan, WESLETS CHAPEL, City Road, 1622: 9.3 FC: 11 Morning, Rev Dr I, Grimths.
WESLETS CHAPEL, City Road, 1622: 9.3 FC: 11 Morning, Rev Dr I, Grimths.
WESTORDSTER CONTRAL MAIL Distributions of the Contral Manual Contral Manual Contral Manual Contral Cont

RECOT:

ST OFRIDE'S, FREE STEEL, EC4: 11 Choral M a
Euch, Inbilaze Irreland in Cl., Misse brevis
(Waltan), Christ is the Rower within my beart
(Chappan), Canon I Gates 6:30 Choral B,
Magnifical/Nunc Diminis (Wood in F), The
Unite Kings (Cornelius), Canon I Gates

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Buch,
Collegium Regale (Howells), Tribus miraculis
(Palestina), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont

Street, SW1: 11 Confirmation, Rev C Macieod: 630 Rev W Cairns. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Piece: 11 S Mass, Mass, Mill Plainsong), Laudare Puert Dominum (Mendelssohn), Ave vertum (Fauri). ST GEORGES, Hanner Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Darke in F. The Rector, ST JAMES'S. Sesser Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Nes), I waige for the Lord (Mendelsohn). Rev 8 Wilson: 5 Choral E. D Purcell in E minor, in Epipoania (Pulestring). ST LAMES'S, Piccodilly: 8 HC: | 1 S Buch, Rev M Robins: 3/45 EP. Fullet.

FI MARK'S, Rapesse Park Rd. NW1; 8 HC; 9.45

FIRMLY Communion; 11 S. Euch, Missa Sancti
Joseph (Perers). The Crown of Roses

FI MARKARYS. Westminster, 5W; 11 S

Duch, Mass in G. Minor (Vaughan Williams).

Resis that is cinepted of New M. Langham.

FI MARKIN-IN-INE-FIELDS. WC2; 8, 12.30

HC, Rev B. Schunemann: 945 Euch, Rev B.

Schunemann: 11.30 Visitors, Rev C. Herbert.

2.45 Chinese, Rev J. Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30

Dening, The Woat. Evening. The Vicar,

IT MART ABBOTS CRUNCH. Kendengins Wis

8, 12.30 Rtc. 9.30 Payish Euch, Rev Focilit 11.15

Churel M. Rev F Gellt, 0.30 E. hav Haline.

6T MARTS, Bourne Street, 5W19. 0.10, 7 LM, 11

HM, Missa brevis Cappella Regalls (Casear).

Archdeactar G Keld; 6 Solema E & B.

IT MART-TITE-Vinguis, Primores Hill: 8 HO.

10.30 Parish Euch, Mass for Foor Voices (Syrd).

Cantaise Domino (Monterverdi), Rev D Jopes: 6

Tables. Table

ST MICHAELIS. Cornholl, ECh. 11 Te Deum

ST MICHAELIS. Cornholl, ECh. 11 Te Deum

Walfand Davies in Gi, Jubistre (Thaibert-Sall in

8 (ant. O God who by the leading of a star

Inhumod, Oswald Clarke

ST PAULS. Wilton Mace, SWI: 8.9 HC: 11

Solemn Bach, Missa osculetur me (Lassen)

Verbum caro factum est (Hasgier), Confurna

hoc Deus (Byrd), Rev C. Jones.

ST PETERS. Eaton Square, SWI: 8.15 HC BCP:

10 Family Encir. 11 S Euch, Missa cum Ighilo

[Duroffel. O salutaris hosta (Widor), Final

[Cochersad]. [Cocherean].
CHAFLI ROYAL OF ST FETER AD VINCUIA.
IM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev Pabran: 11
M & Sermon, Te Deum (Chand, Benedicus
(Bevin), Long long agu (Howells), Rev Pabran.
CHAFLI ROYAL, St. James's Pabrace: 8.30 HC,
11.15 MP, Here is a little door (Howells), Canon J Hossi.
CHAPEL RGYAL. Hampton Court Falson 8.30
HC (1662): 11 M. Britten in C. Whence is that
soody fragrance Bowing far McCheej: 3.30 E.
Wien Jesus out Lock (Mendelsscha).
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOT, WC2: 11
SERTIOR in Bills. S Euch, The Chapitin. Stanford in Bibal S Euch. The Chaptein.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Flees Street 8.30 HC:
11.15 MP, Te Deum Laudentus (Howelds
Collegium Regale, nublishe Don (Howelds)
Collegium Regale, sublishe Don (Howelds)
Collegium Regale, sublishe Don (Howelds)
Collegium Regale, Surge Thominare
(Palestring). The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks. SWI:
11 M. Lot Star-led Chiefs (Crotch), Band of the
little Guards, Rev Frutherford: (L. HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Grentwich,
SEIG. 13 Eboch, Included in C. Omnes de Saba
(Handi), Rev C French.

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BURTHDAYS

SERVICES

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Send your hearts and not your garments, and turn back to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,

CLAIBORNE - Jaquella Robertson_at The Portland joyfully amounce the amival of Jack, p brother for

DENNIS - On 10th (anuary 1997, to Pauline (nee Becs) and Stephen, a son, Nathan George, a brother for Bethan. GILMOUR - On November 20th 1996, in New York, to Emma and Andrew, a son, Xan, brother for Archie.

HATVANY - On January 16th 1997, to Juliet and Ivan, twin daughters, Tessa and Claire, sisters for Imagen. MIGLIC-BINSTED - On 10th January 1997 in Malbourne, Australia, to Lisa a son, Hugo Charles Emil MOSS - On 15th January 1997 at The Royal Free Hampsteed to Sarah (nee Blackstone) and Anthony, a son, Gideon Ben.

NELSON - On 3rd January 1997 in London, to Stephen and Catherine (new Badger), son, William James

SAINT-LEGER - On 13th January at The Portland Hospital, to Sana and Stephen, a beautiful son, Thomas, brother to Sacha SCHAFFER - On 10th January at The Portland Hospital, to Danielle and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Robys

SEALEY - On January 15th 1997, to Vanessa (née Oliver) and Andrew, a son, Christopher Edward.

STREET - On January 10th 1997, to Caroline (nee White) and Meholas, a doughter, Phoebe Charlotto Laidley, a sister for Amplia. en BENZON - Zara Mariana, a lovely epiphany gift for her family.

jeste Vida, widow of the Right Reverend W.L. Anderson, greatly loved and respected by all her family. To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die." Funeral 12 noon 28th January St Bonifare, Woodgreen. Family flowers only at her request

DEATHS ARMITAGE - On January 10th 1997 at Bury St Edmunds Elizabeth (nee Shepherd-Cross) OBE, wife of the late Godfrey. Her funeral survice takes place in the West Chapel at Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday 28rd January at 1 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired for Cancer Research clo L. Pulchus, 30 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmands, Suffoik 1741 INC.

ATKINSON - Jun. Pencefully, at Earl Haig Home. Edinburgh on January 13th 1997, James Edward Mateuriney Atkinson formerly of Allo3, beloved husband of Heather, dearly loved father and grandfather, composer of the real of the 51st Highland Division. Edward cremation at Falkirk at 11 am on Saturday January 18th 1997, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 230 pm at 8t John's Church, Allos to which all friends are warmly invited.

SESSEY - Nicholas Edward, died January 14th 1997 at Hamble, Funscal to be held at Gulfdford Crematorium on Wednesday January 22nd at 12.30 pm. No figurers, denations to 8 fil. detations to RNLL

Col. (Retd.) on 21st December 1996 suddenly at home, belowed husband of Diana and much level lather and grandfather. The fundari service has taken place on the lale of Man. Memorial Service at the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens, Eastchapp, London EC3 on Eastcheap, London BC3 on Tuesday, 18th March 1997 at 12 mood

CAPSHER IUNER On 15th January peacefully in Winchester Sarbara widow of Wilfred, beloved mother of Robert and Clarissa. Loving gradmother to Luke, Jonathan, Matthew and Mancy, Funetal Service at Easton Pacish Church, near Winchester on Thursday 23rd January at 230 pm. Ke flowers please Donathon, if dealerd, to ENLL c/o January at 250 pm. Ke flowers please Donathon, if dealerd, to ENLL c/o January at 250 pm. Ke flowers Vinchester 5023 OHU. Winchester SU23 OHU.

CHAPMAN - Propy (MER. nee Goddard), formeriy of Preshford, near Bath, widow of 'Bill' Chapman, died peacefully at Limpley Stoke, on 15th jamuary in her 95th yalr. Cherished mother of Elizabeth, Richard and Mary; much loved mother and wary; much loved mother and awar, struck loved mother and aunt. Funesal at St Fater's, Freshford, on Wednesday 22nd jamuary at 2 pm. Family flowers only, but a donation to Barnardes of a. Bowyer Ltd., 2 The Bullpil, Bradford-on-Awon, Wiltshire, tel. (01225)

Williahize, tel: (01225) 863208. S63208.
CLARKE - On 14th lanuary
1997 peacefully at home,
Alan Charles William
Vincent. Dearly leved
husband of Marjoris and
father of Peter, Susanne and
James. No flowers please by
donations, if dealred, to the
League of Friends of Beahill
Roophal, cle Munnery, 31.
Devocative Road, Beahill
ROOPHE. CROOKE - Jarmila (née Roenigemark) aged 74 on January 15th. Feneral Enfield Crematorium, January 23rd at 930 age.

ABBARY 2380 28 7-30 288.

JANUARY 16th at Paternoster
Ruraing Home, Waltham
Abber, Private companion on Tuesday 28th January.

Donations it derived to the
Alzheisser's Disease Society.

EVAMS-CORDON - Georgian died peacefully on 16th january at The Manor House Residential House, aged 100. Daughter of the late Col. Evans-Gordon and the Baroness von Unt 2n Egloffstein, will be very sadly missed by all who insw her. Donations if defired for the RSFCA to Mayrall Cork Fuberal Director, Mundesley Road, North Walsham, Norfolk. POORT - Fatrick suddenly but peocefully in his 80th year at 5t Mary's Rospital, Portsmouth, on January 16th Dently loved historic, father and grandfather. Enquiries to Carrelly Posteries (01705) 486183.

CUNDY - Peacefully at Welbourn Hall Mursing Home on 16th January 1997. Joza Adlem aged 90 years, formerly Thornton (nee Park). Funeral Service at S. Belen's Church, Brant Broughton, on Thurnday 25rd January at 230 year. Family flowers only please but if desired donations for St Belen's Church may be sent to E. Ach 2 Sons Funeral Directors, Bassingham, Lincoln, tal: (01522)

PARRISON - Woodthorps Jude, 29ed 81, pracufully in Charles Cross Respital on January 16th. Beloved inscisse of Allie and Jother of Ian, 50s, Nick and Sarah and foving grandfather to their children. Funezal at Mortiake Commatorium on Friday January 24th at 10am. Denations, if wished, to Scollosis Association (UK), c/o Co-Operative (UK), c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service, 162 King Street, London W6 OQU, tak (O181) 748-2982

HOLLMRAKE - On January
16th 1997, Dorothy
Gwaldha, sped 86 years of
Faluswick, Gloucestershire,
dearly loved wife of Wilfred.
The imenal service will take
place at 2 pm on Friday
jamasay 24th at Gloucesters
Crematorium, Ho flowers
places, but douations in her
memory inay be made to the
Sue Ryder Home
(Lockhampton), c/o Selim
Smith & Co. 74 Prestingy
Boad, Cheltenham, Tel:
(01262) S25283. HOSKIMS - Mary died pascefully 15th January. Funeral 24th January 4.15pm Putney Vale Countries to Trinity Hospics would be appreciated.

COUNTY - Adam (Kivi) pused away suddenly on Tuesday 14th jamusiy. Dearly loved by his wife Christa and daughter Laura. Greatly prised by his commiss levide.

LENIE-JONES - Saddemly at home in Steaton Catadia on 15th January 1997 Alson (née Rose) is her 7664 year, dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral privata. No flevens plante but donations it dearned to Canter Relief Macmilian Fund of Porter Jackson Fundral Services, Mons, High Struct, Homeridge, Someron BAS Olls, tel: (01963) 362570.

MAZUMBAR - Dr. Birendra Nath, on December 4th, 1996 at Today Hospital A Colditz vetera, and wattime escapes. A brave and homourable man to whom duty, loyalcy, morality and sincerity were cardinal virtues. Of abiding inspiration to his be-loved, loving and devoted family. Creasation took pince on 10th Documber 1996 at Today.

ASSESSITE - Wifred Recently, ages 74, peacefully in hospital on january 15th, 1997, after a long Masses fought with courage and ferritude. Dearly loved husband of Joan and wenderful father of feter, Gillian and Jean and dear grandad of Samantha, Eathryn, Micholas and Georgina. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Weinseas Jeansty End at 10.30 am. No Hewers. Donations to Partisson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Wohurs Plates, London WCIR Old, marked "In memory of Wiffred Massesty, of Wiffred Massesty."

ORRACH-John Leo Louis, died pescafully at home on lanuary 16th. Much loved probate, father, hother and probate at 18th March Service at 10.30s on Wednesday 22nd 18th March 18th

MARTIE - Hajor F.C.E., MC.
(Derick or Chota to his friends). Died peacefully 15th Jamusry in Zower after a very short Hunes. Much loved health of the Hunes Hund Jamusry in Zower and a gendfather. Family flower and at Stumpy and Someon only please. Donations to Boyal Artillary Henrolous to Boyal Artillary Henrolous Parish Charth 11 am, Thursday 23rd Jamusry, Thursday 23rd Jamusry, Celterine's Hospite, Malthouse End. Southgate, and a profession. Traly m officer cressettom. Traly m officer and a profession.

AICHARDSON - James Alexander 31st December 1996 peacefully in hospital after a long illuste borne with goat course. Loving father of William and Mary and grandfather of Jamie, Robbie and Emma Private vervice. No flowers please but donations, it desired, to far. John P. Glees Clinical Research Fund at The Royal Marxdon Hospital and St. George's Hospital, Royal Marxdon Mills Trust, Downs Road, Sutton, Sazzey,

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE BARRY - Jonathan BSc RICS. Remembering our beloved son on his 37th bitthday. PUTT - Barbara, died 18th January 1996. Loved and Same, Lesiey and Jan. 51MON May Rose January 19th 1985, Never forgotten, always missed, Ann.

MCNARD - On January 14th
1997, Peter F.B. Elckard
O.B.E. aged. 76: Beloved
husband of 50 years of
Betty, loving father of
Catherine, Johntham and
Sarah, and proud
gamdinther of Robert, Clare,
Jack, Micholas, William and
Hisabeth, Funnal Service on
Thursday, 23rd January as
3 pon at 51 Michael's Church,
Monkton Combe, Beth.
Family flowers, and
donations for Pristands of 5r
Marrins Hospital in
appreciation of their care
and Rindness, to G.
Mannings & Soms Ltd. North
Road, Combe Down, Beth
BAZ SHW.
ROSE-Lady lean pessentiality at

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES PELLY:FULLER - On 18th January 1947 at Kilaloan Church, near Clonmel, Co. Tippeary, John to Patricia sow of Worcestersking.

BAZ Daw.

ROSE Lady jeen pencefully at
home on 16th january.
Funeral private. Service of
Thankspiving at 5c january.
Church, Huthili, of
Wednesday 22nd january. TICKETS FOR SALE ALL AVAIL: Passicon, all chains, B. ddams, P.Calline, C. Don, Engley all sport 0171 480 6183 FIVE NATIONS BUGGY
THE RYDER CIE*
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SPORTS TICKET SPECIALISTS

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HODGE, GC

Captain Alexander Hodge, GC, RNVR officer and former - chairman of Standard Life Assurance, died in Edinburgh on January 4 aged 80. He was born on June 23, 1916.

was while he was serving as a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve sub-lieutenant in the aircraft carrier Edgle in the Indian Ocean in the spring of 1940 that Sandy Hodge won the George Cross for his brave rescue of several seriously injured seamen after a bomb had exploded below decks. At the time Eagle was steaming in the eastern Indian Ocean, flying armed reconnaissance patrols in the hope of catching German surface ships and submarines which had been reported in the area.

On March 14, 1940, a Swordfish patrol had returned to its parent ship and the aircraft were being unloaded of their bombs, which were struck down to the bomb room via a chute. At this point the bombs should all have been rendered harmless. But the somewhat complicated strike mechanism of that type of weapon made it often difficult to determine whether this had been done, and one of the 250 bombs remained armed, unknown to the handling party. Halfway down the chute the bomb slipped from the grasp of its handlers and fell down into the bomb room, where it exploded.

A dozen of the handling party were killed instantly and many more were grievously injured. The bulkhead between the bomb room and the adjacent boiler room was punctured in many places by flying fragments, but luckily Eagle's robust construction prevented more serious damage. She had originally been built as a battleship for the Chilean Navy before being converted as an aircraft carrier.

Hodge, who was responsible for that part of the ship, immediately went to the bomb room, which was full of fumes and at a blistering temperature. Notwithstanding the danger of further explosions, Hodge groped his way into the compartment in pitch darkness and led several badly injured men to safety. He then returned to the bornb room where he found that one man was crushed under two heavy bombs which he could not move single-handed. Summoning help, Hodge eventually managed to move the bombs, extricate the man and have him conducted to



safety. He then returned to the bomb room again and remained there until he was satisfied that there was no one else left alive in the compartment. Having done all this, he went back to the sub-lieutenants' mess where, totally exhausted, he promptly fell asleep in

an armchair. He was gazetted as having won the Empire Gallantry Medal, but this was

war was inevitable, he joined the RNVR in Edinburgh. After leaving HMS Eagle, which went into dry dock in Singapore after her mishap, Hodge served during the

intending to practise, but Britain's betrayal of the Czechs at Munich

disturbed him deeply and, feeling that

central years of the war on escort duty in the corvette Saxifrage, serving in the Atlantic and on Murmansk convoys. He was to witness some of the most desperate actions of the climacteric months of the Bantle of the Atlantic, a period during which the Admiralty's position seemed hopeless at first until hope at last dawned in the spring of 1943, and it was suddenly perceived that Doenitz's U-boats had received a fatal check.

Towards the end of the war Hodge was in the Far East, serving as Staff Officer (Intelligence) to the British Pacific Fleet in the battleship King George V. As such, he was one of the first British officers into Tokyo after the Japanese surrender and was charged by his admiral with delivering a case of whisky to the Swiss soldiers who had safeguarded the British Embassy for the duration of hostilities.

After the war he joined the Edinburgh firm of solicitors Cowan & Stewart, where he became senior partner in 1950 and where he worked until his eventual retirement in 1984. He was a prominent figure in the commercial affairs of Edinburgh. He was a director of Standard Life Assurance, 1965-87, and was chairman of the company from 1977 to 1982. He was a former president of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and was, from 1967 to 1985, chairman of the General Commissioners of Income Tax for Edinburgh South.

At the same time he pursued his RNVR career, being promoted com-mander in 1949 and captain in 1953. He was CO of the Forth Division RNVR from 1953 to 1957, when he retired.

Hodge enjoyed his position as a governor of his old school, Fettes College, as well as his membership of the Court of Heriot-Watt University. He also served as a Deputy Lieutenant for Edinburgh. After retirement he continued to be active in para-naval affairs locally and was chairman of the Edinburgh District Sea Cadets Committee, 1959-63.

He is survived by his wife Pauline and by a son and two daughters.

REGINALD MITCHELL

Reginald Mitchell, MBE. owner of Reggie's British Pub in Atlanta, died in Falls Church, Virginia, on December 27 aged 71. He was born in Brighton on October 22, 1925.

AT FIRST glance, Reginald Mitchell seemed a stereotypical expatriate Briton, a distinguished figure twirling his handlebar moustache, immaculately suited and gladhanding visitors to Reggie's British Pub, nestled among the shops of the CNN Centre in Atlanta. For Americans seeking an authentic pub, Reggie's was certainly the real thing, with its British beer and magnificent sausages and steak and kidney pies. Mitch-ell was always in front of the bar, never pulling pints behind it.

But Mitchell's endeavours stretched far beyond the duties of "mine host". He was perhaps the best-known Briton in the southern United States. He devoted himself to nurturing transatlantic goodwill and his MBE last January was in recognition of his many accomplishments in strengthening ties between British and American communities.

He organised Atlanta's first service for Remembrance Sunday in memory of those from both countries who served in two world wars. He started the Oglethorpe Ball, named after the original British Governor of Georgia, and turned it into a charityfundraising highlight of the social calendar.

As president of the Atlanta English Speaking Union he sponsored college scholarships and Shakespearean competitions. He was involved in Burns Night, the local Scottish Highland Games and the British-American Business

Reginald Mitchell was a great-great-great-grandson of Lord Cornwallis, whose defeat as commander of British troops gave the Americans their final victory in the War of



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Independence. In jaunty recognition of his unfortunate forebear, Mitchell organised a Grand Losers' Day in his pub every Fourth of July with toasts to Cornwallis and his adversary, George Washing-

Reggie's was a cool refuge for many Britons seeking escape from Atlanta's blistering hear, including visitors to last year's Olympics and, some years before that, a horde of grateful British journalists covering the Democratic Convention in a dreary auditorium across the street.

Born in Brighton, Mitchell was evacuated to America early in the Second World War but returned to England in 1943, aged 17, to enlist in the Royal Marines. He later transferred to the Indian Army and was commissioned in the Punjab Frontier Force Rifles, known as "Piffers". In all his subsequent wanderings, he never lost his Indian Army swagger, nor his Eng-

lish accent. After demob he enrolled in

the University of Georgia, took up residence in a red caboose parked near by and earned a BA in journalism. He worked his way around the United States as a freelance writer, actor, lumberjack, ranch hand and construction worker, until finally reaching Alaska where he sold encyclopaedias to Eskimos.

Always a debonair figure, he shuttled between Atlanta and London, holding jobs in advertising and publicity, until becoming director of the British Menswear Guild in 1964. During his six years at the helm, he sponsored 250 promotions all over the world for British menswear and, to the delight of members, doubled their overseas sales.

In the early 1970s, he again returned to Atlanta as director of the Fashion Institute of America. He opened Reggie's 20 years ago, followed by a second Reggie's on the waterfront in Norfolk, Virginia.

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Mitchell's wife Patricia died in 1989. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.

SIR ROGER FALK

Sir Roger Falk, OBE, businesaman, died on January 15 aged 86. He was been on June 22.

ROGER FALK was a successful businessman with a strong enjoyed a long and active career in advertising, marketing and management consultancy. But in the course of it be found time to write a bestselling book on management; to serve with distinction on such public bodies as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Gaming Board, and the Board of Prison Visitors; and to champion the performing arts at Sadler's Wells. He himself liked to say that his greatest achievement was to have brought up three children as a single parent, after the death of his wife in the 1950s.

Educated at Haileybury and Geneva University, Roger Salis Falk began work in 1948 at D.J. Keymer, the advertising agency run by his father. Unhappy and frustrated there at first, he soon left for South Africa, where he worked for a year on the Rhodesia Railways in Bulawayo, before his father persuaded him to rejoin the firm, this time as manager of its office in Calcutta. He spent four challenging years working there and in Bombay. before coming back to England as a director in 1935.

Selected in 1937 as prospective Conservative candidate vented by the Second World War from contesting the seat, where the Labour majority was 37,000. He did, however, serve on Shoreditch Borough Council, 1937-45. In 1939 he joined the RAF, serving first in France as adjutant to two Hurricane squadrons. Finishing the war with the rank of wing commander, he was appointed OBE (mil) in 1945. He returned after the war to

D. J. Keymer, spending four years as managing director before selling the company in 1949. In November of that year he became the first and last director-general of the British Export Trade Research Organisation, where he was able to draw on his extensive knowledge of foreign markets until the organisation was disbanded a few years later.

He then joined the engineering consultancy P.E International, initially to develop its marketing activities. His association with the company



immediately translated into the newly-

instituted George Cross, and it was the

insignia of the GC with which he was

at Blairgowrie, Pethshire, and educat-

ed at Fettes College and Edinburgh

University, where he took an MA in

1936 and an LLB in 1938. Having

qualified as a solicitor, he had been

Alexander Mitchell Hodge was born

lasted until 1976. In the 1950s and 1960s management consultancies prospered but by 1973, when Falk became chairman of P.E. many of them were running into difficulties. Embarking on what he described as "a bit of a surgical job", he cut the number of consultants by a third. That decisive action, and his insistence that consultancy was about selling solid business expertise, rather than Jargon, wizardry and gimmicks, ensured that his firm survived while many of its

rivals foundered. Falk never subscribed to the school of management that advocates 16-hour days and no

of Management, first pub-lished in 1961 and frequently reprinted, insisted that "management 'rules' must always be subordinated to wider, human issues" and placed great importance on the public responsibilities of private His own sense of social

responsibility was strong, and his outside interests were wide. Particularly after the death of his wife, he threw himself into public service

Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT.

life beyond the office. His

bestselling book, The Business

Management, first pub-

with great energy and dedication. He joined the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1965 and remained a member until 1980; he also served as deputy chairman of the Gamine Board, and as chairman of the Central Council for Co-operation. He was knighted in 1969.

in several of his appointments he was able to combine his commitment to public service with his keen interest in the arts. As chairman of the Furniture Development Council, and as a member of the Council of Industrial Design and of the Council of the Royal Society of Arts, he was a passionate and down-to-earth champion of good, functional modern design. Sadier's Wells was the other

main artistic beneficiary of his dedication and expertise. As chairman and then vice-president of its foundation and trust, he ensured that the values of the theatre's founder, Lilian Baylis, were upheld and that Sadler's Wells continued to present high quality performances to the widest possible audience even at a time of financial crisis in the arts.

Anxious to compensate for the departure of the resident opera company to the Coliseum, he was instrumental in providing the Royal Ballet touring company with a home at Sadler's Wells for 14 years from 1976. He did much to increase the theatre's sponsorship revenue, enabling it to continue to attract the best visiting companies from Britain and abroad. As life vicepresident, he lived long enough to see the theatre close for redevelopment with lottery

His wife Margaret, whom he married in 1938, died in 1958. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

JACK WILLISON

until his marriage in 1981, of

Jack Willison, barber to the Royal Family, died on January 2 aged 80. He was born on July 21, 1916.

EVERY few weeks for forty years, Jack Willison could be found making his way to Buckingham Palace, armed with scissors and lotions, clippers and combs. There it was his job to attend to the hair of the Duke of Edinburgh and,

the Prince of Wales as well. An unassuming man, devoted to his work, he was discreet about his dealings. Despite

having such an exclusive clientele (he had also cut the hair of Winston Churchill), he never once divulged a confidence. Believing the relationship between a man and his barber to be one of trust, he was dismissive of what he regard-



ed as frivolous media gossip. Not only did he refuse the many requests for interviews and offers of generous remu-neration from the press, but he never even disclosed to his wife what passed between himself and his clients.

His dedication to his work was recognised earlier this month in the New Year's Honours List when he was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal for his services to the Royal Family. Both the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales sent him telegrams to express their appreciation of his work.

John Herbert Willison was born in South Norwood and educated locally. His career as a harber was interrupted by the Second World War when he served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, though even then he kept his hand in by trimming the hair of a few of his comrades. When the war was over he joined the men's hairdressers Penhaligons, later to became Truefin & Hill. He was to remain with them until last year when, at the age of 80, he was forced to retire because of failing health.

Outside his work, Willison was a devoted family man. Though he occasionally trimmed the locks of his sonin-law or attended to his own neat moustache, he refused ever to meddle with the hairstyles of his wife or daughter. thoroughly old-fashioned barber, he would never have been at home in today's unisex salons.

Fascinated by history, in his free time he would pore over historical works. He was particularly interested in steam locomotion and was a member of the Swanage Railway.

Peggy, whom he married in 1940, and by their daughter.

He is survived by his wife

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Wildlife and Countryside Act from 9.00am

on Saturday, 18 January 1997.

JOHN MAJOR'S BROADCAST

"He invaded without justification. His army has conducted itself without mercy. If such brutality and aggression are rewarded with success, then we are all at risk, if you appease a bully you pay for it later, and you often pay more dearly ... In the patient diplomacy of the past five months leaders from around the world have sought peace. and then sought it again. But unfortunately, Saddam Hussein has chosen war ... We applied sanctions to make our point clear. We refused to trade with Iraq. Those sanctions made life harsher for Saddam's people, but he was not a man to be influenced by their suffering. Then the world set him a deadline. Free Kuwait, we said, or we will have to free it from you ... Saddam has chosen instead to defy the world. The deadline passed on January 15 and still he refused to withdraw. That is why we and our partners are now facing up to our responsibility. It is to compel him to

ON THIS DAY

January 18, 1991 经外的政治

Extracts from a speech given on television a day after the launch of Desert Storm, the battle to force Irag's withdrawal from Kuwait.

obey the United Nations ... Our aims are clear. They have been set out, for all to see, by the United Nations Security Council. First we must get Iraq out of Kuwait - right out of Kuwait. Second, we must restore Kuwait's legitimate government. And third, we must uphold the authority of the United Nations. We and our allies want nothing more than that. We are not seeking to dismember Iraq. We have no intention of imposing our choice of government on Iraq. We are simply doing what the United Nations said should be done. We are

acting with the authority of the United Nations, and on behalf of the whole world ... On Tuesday, members of Parliament gave the government their overwhelming support. One of the biggest parliamentary majorities in recent history supported action to enforce the decisions of the UN, It is a just cause, and it is right that we in Britain should play our part. I take no pleasure in this conflict, but I do know what we are doing is right. Our nation has been through many trials in the past, but when, as now, right and justice have been on our side, we have prevailed ... I was privileged to meet many of our servicemen and women in the Gulf last week. Their professionalism is outstanding, their confidence impressive, and their courage undoubted. You can be proud of them - very proud. Each one of them has Britain's wholehearted support, and the prayers of all of us for their safe return home. And our prayers are also for you, their families. We are no less proud of you. Goodnight and God oless."

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Superwoman flies into action

■ Nicola Horlick, the City "superwoman" suspended by her employer Morgan Grenfell, flew to the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt yesterday for a showdown to win back her job.

She emerged victorious, claiming that two key staff had listened to her side of the story and discussed two options with her: reinstatement or fair compensation....

War crimes trial collapses

Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial collapsed before it began. costing the taxpayer £4 million. An Old Bailey jury decided that Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, from Banstead in Surrey, was unfit to stand trial after hearing expert evidence that he was suffering Pages 1, 3 from Alzheimer's disease ...

Getting the bird

Hebron curfew

Gingrich fine

Palazzo puzzie

All the news

disease ...

of ethics _

starve Trafalgar Square's pigeons

into submission. It says the birds

damage buildings and spread

Israeli troops left from most of

Hebron but a curfew was clamped

on Palestinians living near the re-

maining Jewish settlers ... Page 16

Newt Gingrich is expected to have

to pay a penalty of at least

\$100,000 (£60,000) for violations

__ Page 17

Back to earth

The American hot air balloonist Westminster council started to Steve Fossett may be forced to abandon his attempt to fly around the world after Libya refused him permission to overfly Page 1

Bishops speak out Church of England bishops prom-

ised to speak out on political issues in the election campaign and fight for "a more just world" Page 6 Witness collapses

The lover of Eve Howells, whose

husband and sons are charged with her murder, collapsed in the witness box

Pulpit pain

Male worshippers' dislike of being Police were baffled by the murder of Count Alvise di Robilant, an art told what to do by a female is making life difficult for women connoisseur battered to death in ... Page 10 his Florentine palazzo Page 18 preachers....

Forger's last laugh

Eric Hebborn, the art forger, is A book by Katharine Graham, the having the last laugh. His guide to American newspaper publisher, faking is to be published, a year covers her husband's philander-

after he was murdered Page 11 ing and suicide

Oranges kicked into touch

■ No more will weary rugby players gather on the pitch and suck a chunk of half-time orange before picking at their teeth to remove its last shards. In March the five-minute interval is to be doubled and players may leave the field. The dear old Jaffa was as essential to rugby as a scrum or a line-out

NATURE NOTES

Hedgerhog (Europa dithera)

If this sad creature persists in its middle-of-the-road position it can expect to be kohled in large numbers.

OPINION

The old Bill: There is still time for Mr Howard to avoid a confrontation with the Upper .. Page 23 House ...

His fellow Americans: The time is not for Bill Clinton to ask what Americans can do for him, but what he can now do for Americans..... Page 23 A brother's hand: The Chief Rabbi is ready to face European Judaism's greatest ... Page 23

LETTERS Heath on Europe; Police Bill; Hollywood's war withPage 23

COLUMNS Steron Jenking: The natural

landscape of the British Isles is not field or scrub but forest. Come Armageddon, forest would again cover most of the countryPage 22 Anthony Howard: Most polit-

ical leaders have an ideological pedigree, but Tony Blair seems to have none...Page 22

CEITUARRES Captain Alexander Hodge, GC, Standard Life Assurance: Reginald Mitchell, Atlanta pub owner; Jack Willison, barber to the Royal Family...

Economy: Weak receipts from VAT helped to push up December's government borrowing . Storehouse: The group is to

part company with its finance

director ...

Guinness: The drinks company spent E182 million on its own shares......Page 27 Merkets: The FT-SE 100 in-

dex closed 10.2 points up at 4207.7. Sterling's tradeweighted index rose from 96.1 to 96.6 after a fall from \$1.6752 to \$1.6683 but a rise from DM2.6673 to DM2.6890 ... __ Page 30

Tennis: Tim Henman was sent packing 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 by Michael Chang in the third round of the Australian Open in Melbourne...... Page 52 Rugby union: The five nations' championship opens. needing to stand comparison with southern hemisphere

competition Page 52 Football: Michael Duberry, Cheisea and England Under-21 defender, is out for the rest

THE PARTY OF THE P Kit cars; head-on crashes:

SECTIONS

MAGAZIRE

Hit girls: women storm the The Ice queen: Lindsay Duncan.... Page 19 Food and drink....Page 39

Weekend

Private view: Lord Archer Pages 1, 2



Property: The Caribbean: churches Pages 6-8 Family Die: Caring for an elderly parent Page 13

10 15

Ski whizz: Chemmy Alcott Trip to the top: Drew 🌲 Barrymore Win a Las Vegas holiday



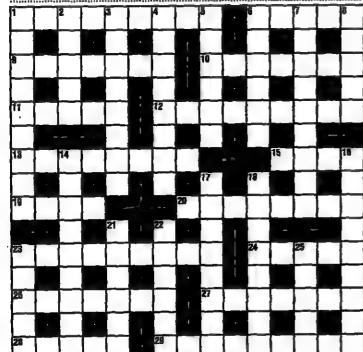


Pages 7-12 TV guide Pages 23-50

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,380

A £30 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London £1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS
 1 Explain vote (3,6).
- 6 Aide and colleague of religious 9 Government order backing plea
- to arrest me (7). 10 Feeling uncertainty with hand and leg being in drink (7).11 Abandon the light (5).
- 12 Mill for example, produces this
- weekly (9).
- 13 For example, a daughter started in profession (6).15 Talk of path where pass should
- 19 Boy in depression (4).
- 20 True lady involved in this? Hardly! (8). 23 Draw another of trainer's horses,
- not a starter for bookies (9). 24 Admitting the sea needs a clean
- Fateful order one has reason to follow (7).
- 27 Print style for listing characters
- 28 Stream of consciousness? Not when one comes out of it (5).
- 29 Speed with battle force to pre-

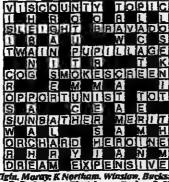
sumed lair of monster (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.374

N HAYFEVER

- DOWN 1 Persuade to join reporters and go north of the border (5-4). it grows underground, right? (5). 3 Shield for vehicle put on quickly
- 4 Serve in remote organization that shows a measure of progress (8). Italian men holding up notice (6).
- Picture nitrogen as a tiny particle Some artists are so original (9).
- 8 Easily done it was made on the first morning (5). 14 He may treat people by reconstructing their past (9). 16 Horror film is about son getting
- mental illness (9). On side boundaries keeping West
- Indies on top of English (8). 18 Nice money received by agri-cultural worker (8). 21 Request ace and beat it! (6).
- 22 Service provided for rock group Start to penetrate into earth throw this up? (5). 25 Put had ideas here? (5)-

Solution to Puzzle No 20.379



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AA REFORMATION

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414 398 ur O'The Met-Office

153 destination 6 day 0116 41 1216 by Fax (index page) Motoring

0336 401 835 0336 401 836 0336 401 887 0336 401 882 6336 401 409 0836 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 4.26 pm Moon sets 3.06 am

Pain Indon 3 annium y 20 London 4 25 pm to 7.56 am Bristol 4.36 pm to 8.05 am Edinburgh 4 17 pm to 8.29 am Memchester 4.25 pm to 6 1.3 am Perszence 4.53 pm to 8.12 am TUNCHROW

HIGH TIDES HT3761957731577358731569 -52206 7% & 6.46 (1.22 (1 19.38

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 4) 2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE General: England and Wales will see rain spreading from the South West to reach all western and northern parts. Central and south-eastern England will be generally dry with varying amounts of cloud. Western parts will turn windy. After trost in central and northern districts, temperatures will be mostly around

normal.

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showery outbreaks of rain. Northern Scotland should stay largely dry. Over the Grampians further snow is expected. It will be

☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles: patchy log clear or sunny spe dry. Wind southweste

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: patchy tog at first, clearing. Outbreaks of showery rain later. Wind southerly, fresh, locally strong. Max RC (ARE) **BC (46F)**

NE England, Borders, Edin-burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: dry at first, cloudy with patchy rain later. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Man

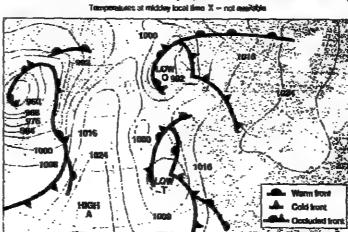
Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: broken cloud, showers, wintry in north and over hille. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh, locally strong at times. Mex 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

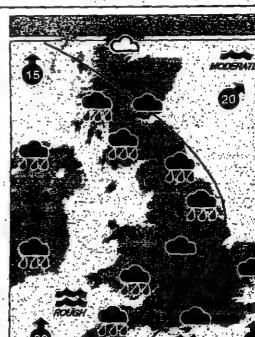
Outlook: wintry showers in north, elsewhere mostly cloudy with out-

Midlanda, SW England,

du r sk mb qn qn

Corfus
C phage
Dublin
Dubron
Fero
Florenze
Franjelur
Franjelur
Franjelur
Holani
Hong K
Janebrel
Jeddah
Jorburg
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Tel Ariv
Valencia





AND

Wake up, juvviee! The

Government gets a sullen

acquiescence from its arts

community. Richard Mor-

rison longs for some cre-

Wintry night: Opera North

has perversely set Faistaff

in midwinter, and a chill

spread over this sunniest

of operatic comedies on its

first night...... Page 21

Crisp new tenor: Just five

years after his profession-

al debut the young Ameri-

can Richard Workman is

in the top rank of Rossini

tenors and is set for

stardom ____ Page 21

🕰 Sunny Cloudy Drizzle Overcest-Sunny Sunny showers Siest and surriy

erecto

Snow

Temperature (Celsius) Wind apee (mph) & direction

TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August or 6 September ● five nights at the deluxe Sheraton ● city tour ● Niagara with helicopter harbour cruise ● CN Tower luncheon ● Phanton of the Opera • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar to Paris on 10 May o city tour o overnight Concorde supersonic to Nice

 Inncheon and reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix at Mirabean Hotel return by private jet to Heathrow £1,499

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 April • four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1.499

Concorde supersonic to Nice on 1 June

seven night Oriana cruise from Monte-Carlo to Southampton via Livorna (for Florence and Pisa), Ajaccio and Barcelona Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June • eleven night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,999

Concorde supersonic from Heathrow to Bergen on 19 June ● two night Oriana cruise to Southampton Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca - Concorde to Heathrow £1,799

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Changes to chair above from moon; low 1 will move slowly N with little change in central pressure, low 0 will track SE across Finland and gradually filt high A is expected to build in allu

TODAY



BUSINESS

Simon Bentley strides out at Blacks Leisure **PAGE 28**

Monday Tuesday ∪ Wednesday Thursday

WORKING WEEK

A majestic attitude towards quality control **PAGE 29**



SPORT

Henman proves no match for mastery of Chang **PAGES 46-52**

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF British **AIRWAYS**

PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

LVMH sells £560m of shares in Guinness

GUINNESS, the drinks steady Guinness's share price company, yesterday paid out £182 million in a share buyback as it attempted to ease the pain caused by the decision of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the company's principle shareholder, to reduce its stake from 20.9 per cent to 14.2 per cent.

Guinness stepped into the market to purchase 44 million. shares at 414p from Goldman Sachs after the French luxury goods and drinks company announced that it had placed 135 million shares with the merchant bank at the same

The move, which is standard City practice, helped to

after shares fell 22p to 414p in early trading. By close the shares had rebounded to 432p. down just 4p on the day.

Ten years ago Guinness was accused of illegally prop-ping up its share price in an lion bid for United Distillers, the spirits company. Four people, including Ernest Saunders, the former chairsubsequently found guilty of fraud in connection with the share support

LVMH, which informed Guinness of its decision to sell on Thursday evening, is be-

about £100 million from the sale of the stake, which raised a total of £560 million. The sale ends months of

speculation over a growing rift between the two companies with Bernard Amault, chairman of LVMH and a board member at Guinness, apparently dissatisfied by Guinness's lacklustre share performance. Mr Amault is believed to have floated the idea of demerging Guinness's brewing division, a plan rejected by Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness and a director at LVMH.

Guinness's weak trading statement on Wednesday, coupled with a warning over the impact of currency move-ments on this year's profits, was seen by many in the City

SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

LVMH said it would use the money to help to finance its \$2.5 billion acquisition of a majority stake in DFS, the US duty-free shopping group. But analysts believe that the company may also be looking to make further purchases in the near future, pointing to the fact that LVMH could easily finance the bid from existing

The luxury goods company is understood to be negotiating to buy out the two minority though they fiercely opposed the initial takeover plan. Yves Saint Laurent and Nins Ricci, the fashion groups, were also cited as potential targets yesterday.

Guinness and LVMH were quick yesterday to assure shareholders that the commercial ties which exist between the two companies were unaffected by LVMH's reduction in its shareholding. LVMH said it would not further reduce its stake for at least a year, while Guinness will continue to hold a 34 per cent stake in Moët Hennessy. LVMH's drinks subsidiary.

PSBR up as VAT receipts decline

ECONOMICS EDITOR

GOVERNMENT borrowing in December was higher than the City expected, partly because of weak VAT receipts as Britain's consumer revival lost some of its steam at the

tail-end of last year. The public sector borrowing requirement was £2.1 billion last month, compared with City expectations of a figure nearer to £1.1 billion. December's borrowing took the cu-mulative PSBR for the current tax year to £16.1 billion, compared with £23 billion at the

same stage a year ago.
For the full year ending on
April 5, the Government is forecasting a PSBR of £26.4 billion and, despite a measure of City disappointment in yesterday's figures, the Trea-sury said that they were entirely consistent with its forecast at Budget time.

Officials noted that borrowing in December was boosted by £1.2 billion because of shifts in the timing of interest pay-ments related to the new market for gilt strips. These allow investors to split government bonds into paper of shorter maturities, which then attract interest payments in different months. December is one of the months most affected by this activity.

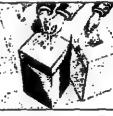
Of slightly more concern in the markets was apparent weakness in VAT receipts, which have clearly slowed over the past two months. David Bloom of HSBC James Capel noted that, although VAT receipts in the first ten months of the financial year were 10 per cent higher than a year ago, this compared with a year-on-year rise of 15 per cent

only two months ago. Nevertheless, broadly agreed with the Treasury's view that it will meet this year's PSBR projection.



Anne Ashworth on Scottish Amicable's unfriendly plans

Peps, pension plans and



S ROBERO THE REAL



How far will rates fall in the credit card war?

INVESTMENT 2

Bonuses fall despite soaring

markets





Security guaranteed. A guide to gilt-edged stocks

Steele goes as Storehouse finance director

STOREHOUSE, the Bhs and Mothercare group that has recently come under fire for its financial reporting, is to part company with Dick Steele, its finance director for the past.

Criticism has centred on the company's "same-sittre" sales figures. Storehouse reported its ... latest figures yesterday, showing an 18 per cent rise in group . sales for the six weeks to Christmas Eve, and same business sales up 9 per cent. The news prompted a 172p rise to 275p in Storehouse's share price, which has fallen heavily over the past nine months.

A Storehouse spokesman,

BUSINESS

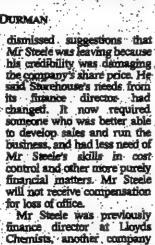
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1.6120° (1.3950) 5.4395° (5.3795) 1.3940° (1.3767) 117.08° (116.62) 99.8 (99.1) Tokyo close Yen 115.93 Brent 15-day (Apr) \$22.45 (rule) London close \$355.15 (\$353.35) 4 denotes midday trading price

Cable job

Page 28

Cable and Wireless, the telecoms group, yesterday appointed a senior Granada director as chief executive of its new cable company. The new company, formed from Mercury and three cable groups, will drop the Mercury name from its title.



finance director at Lloyds Chemists, another company that was criticised for its aggressive accounting poli-cies. His replacement is Chris Martin, who will retain his existing responsibilities as finance director of Bhs.

Bhs had a strong Christmas with sales up nearly 12 per cent, 7.5 per cent coming from same stores. Gifts and menswear were particularly successful. Sarah Charles. head of KPMG's retail consultancy, observed that Storehouse was bouncing back from a poor Christmas in 1995. However, Mothercare was hit by disappointing sales of children's wear, and the same store numbers dropped 4 per cent. A 0.8 per cent fall in overall sales was blamed on the timing of oversess shipments.



Tempus, page 30 Dick Steele is leaving Storehouse, which has been criticised for its financial reporting

Comet to make 1,200 redundant

By Fraser Nelson

MORE than 1,200 jobs are to go at Comet, the electrical retail group, as part of a major reorganisation after the acquisition of the Norweb retail chain last year.

Kingfisher, Comet's parent company, which bought the Norweb business for £29 million three months ago, yesterday named 54 stores that it plans to close.

Comet said the cuts were just the first stage of its plan to integrate the two store groups. It is taking its redundancy costs from a E22 million budget to cover the operation. While all of the job losses

are coming from Norweb's staff, Comet is closing 26 of its own stores and moving staff to other branches. Some 28 Norweb stores are being closed, and the remaining 26 Norweb stores are to reopen as Comet, with no job losses. Cornet, which inherited 138 Norweb stores when it was

merged, said it would com-

plete the reorganisation with 250 stores, compared with the

225 that it had before the The closures extend from Plymouth to Carlisle, but 16 are in the North West of

England.
On Thursday the region suffered a blow when when Ford announced 1,300 jobs losses at its Halewood plant on Merseyside.

Further uncertainty was sparked yesterday after Ko-dak, the photographic products company, said it planned to are 4,000 jobs from its worldwide staff. Most of the cuts are expected to fall in Europe, but Kodak would not specify how many of these would come from Britain,

where it employs 5,500. W H Smith is closing its 29 Playhouse video stores after talks to sell the chain to its management collapsed. The retailer, which rebranded its Our Price Video Stores four years ago, said that the majority of the 169 staff employed by the chain would be redeployed

Electra Fleming sued over HMSO

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

ELECTRA FLEMING, the venture capitalist that led last year's successful bid for HMSO, the privatised government stationer and printer, is being sued for more than

Michael Allen, of MA Media Partners, claims his company is owed £543,437.50 after it introduced Electra Fleming to Rupert Pennant-Rea, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, last April.

Mr Pennant-Rea and Electra Fleming went on to form the National Publishing Group (NPG) that won control of HMSO, now renamed the Stationery Office, at the end of September with a controversially low bid of £54 million. The sale is under investigation by the National Andit Office.

MA Media and Electra Fleming agreed an introduc-tion fee of I per cent of the first £20 million, and 0.25 per cent of the remaining total consideration price. MA Media claims the total

consideration price, including the equity capital, mezzanine finance and debt put together by NPG, was £125 million.

Electra Fleming is sticking to its £54 million figure. It says that much of the MA Media figure is working capital, such as the £40 million charge it has incurred in sacking 900 staff, a third of the Norfolk-based workforce. However, MA Media says

Classtypist, another member of NPG, which acquired the shares in the Stationery Office, also took on "certain liabilities" to the Government. It is fighting for access to documentation relating to the sale. Tim Syder, director of Electra Fleming, said MA Media's claim was "absolutely spurious and would be vigorously defended". The HMSO sale remains

controversial in the City where it is estimated the company's true worth was £140 million. NPG won despite higher bids from two

Bank of Ireland Mortgages



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your home is at risk if you do not keep up reparments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it.

Siemens may buy **Parsons**

BY OLIVER AUGUST

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, could expand its £1.1 billion presence on Tyneside with the acquisition of Parsons from Rolls-Royce. But half of the 1.800 staff at the closure-threatened turbine-generator plant are still likely to lose their jobs.

Jürgen Gehrels, the Siemens chief executive, said: "We are always looking at business opportunities, especially those where we can strengthen the position of our individual businesses and areas where we could improve the service we provide to our customers. I don't know yet whether Parsons is such a business opportunity, but we are looking at it."

A four-strong team of executives spent three days at the plant last week. A Rolls-Royce spokesman said there were a number of potential purchasers, but he declined to name them.

An acquisition of Parsons by Siemens, now a leading electronics manufacturer in Britain with over 10,000 UK employees. would significantly boost the German company's presence on Tyneside, Last year it created 500 highskill jobs at its nearby semiconductor plant, the most modern of its kind in



Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the City's accident prone investment house, has been rocked by the resignation of the

high-flying "superwoman" Nicola Horlick, after allegations of staff pouching . . . 9

Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow

C&W picks Granada director as chief of new merged group

By ERIC REGULY

tional, owner of The Times.

Simon Bentley with camping equipment from Blacks Leisure, whose sales have leant

Blacks Leisure strides out

like-for-like basis were up 22

Retail operations, consist-

CABLE AND WIRELESS yesterday appointed a senior Granada executive as chief executive of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), the company to be formed by the merger of Mercury and three cable companies. It said

the Mercury name would disappear from the group. Graham Wallace, 48, a Gra-nada director and chief executive of its restaurants division, is to join CWC in two weeks at an annual salary of £375,000, plus an undisclosed number of CWC options

Dick Brown, chief executive

Wray tables

higher bid

for Forest

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE battle to win control of

Nottingham Forest Football

Club took a new twist yester-

day when Bridgford, the con-

sortium led by Nigel Wray, raised its offer by £5 million.

Bridgford is offering a cash

injection of £15 million, while

Forest shareholders have the

option of a 10 per cent stake in

the new company or £1.7 mil-

lion cash. The company also

tabled a second offer which

includes £13 million in new

cash and a 20 per cent stake

Bridgford, which is also backed by Irving Scholar -

the former Tonenham Hot-

spur chairman - is one of

three consortiums competing

to win the support of the club's

Last week Forest sharehold-

ers rejected a bid from a

consortium led by Sandy An-

209 shareholders.

for existing shareholders.

of C&W, which will own slightly more than half of CWC, was appointed CWC's chairman. A finance director has yet to be hired.

Mr Brown denied speculation that the highly complex merger of the Nynex. Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies, each of which is publicly listed, and Mercury was running into insurmountable potentially "We're still on obstacles. schedule to complete the

merger by the spring," he said. CWC will offer cable TV. telephony and Internet ser-

vices, long-distance services five million. Mr Brown said that CWC will also offer through Mercury, and intends to develop a range of interac-tive products. Mr Brown mobile-phone services, though it is not known whether this would not comment on specuwill be done directly through lation that CWC is preparing to offer digital TV services, One-2-One, which is owned equally by C&W and US West. with as many as 200 channels, the American regional phone in competition with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per company that owns 21 per cent of TeleWest, Britain's biggest cent owned by News Internacable company.

Mr Brown has hinted that

One-2-One will eventually be However, analysts expect the entire cable industry to launch absorbed into CWC. But Gary digital channels late this year. Ames, chief executive of US West International, said that it The three cable companies will give CWC 700,000 cushas no plans to relinquish tomers and access to another joint control of One-2-One.

In the first ten months of the

current year, 28 stores were

opened, giving Blacks 105 out-

lets. The company also said that distribution operations, embracing O'Neill and Fila

UK, continued to trade well.

Blacks shares touched a

new high of 406 p yesterday

before easing back to 401 ½ p, a gain of 162 p. A year ago, the shares were worth 49 2 p.

Analysts yesterday upgrad-

ed pre-tax profit forecasts for

the current year to February 28 to about £10 million, from

forecasts of £9.25 million. The

Mr Wallace, an engineer and accountant by training, joined Granada in 1986 and was later involved in the merger of BSB and Sky to form BSkyB. In 1992 he became chief executive of Granada's rentals business. He took over the restaurants divisions in 1995 and oversaw their merger with the Forte catering

business last year. At Granada, Mr Wallace is to be replaced by Don Daven-port, who had been responsible for contract catering roadside restaurants and motorway operations.

Mis-selling fear over bonds risk

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

BUSINESS figures released

The company sold £221 million, nearly a quarter of last year's new business, into a high income bond guarantee ing 10.5 per cent annual income and capital security if neither the FT-SE 100 or S&P 500 indices fall over five years. The Institute of Actuaries

criticised the marketing of such products last month for

ation at risk if such products do not deliver according to investors' expectations. One analyst said: "If the wording in their literature is inadequate or the product does not perform, they will either have to pay up or be open to charges.

by Scottish Mutual yesterday reveal it could be vulnerable to mis-selling accusations over its high income bonds.

misleading investors into thinking there is no risk of indices falling when it esti-mates the risk at 20 per cent. There are fears that the Scottish insurer, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abbey National, could put its reput-

of mis-selling - of course, they are not alone in that risk."

Graham Pottinger, Scottish Mutual's chief executive, said: "We have looked at all our marketing and are confident that it is clear to investors that their capital could be at risk." But he added that the risk had not been quantified.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Liberty unleashing pensions price war

A PRICE WAR is looming in the personal pensions market as Liberty International prepares to launch a low-cost pension to rival those offered by Virgin and Eagle Star. The new pension, available from Tuesday, will be sold by telephone only and will have a small management fee of about I per cent, plus an additional monthly charge.

Liberty intends to offer a group personal pension product

later this year. Marc Hommel, director of Liberty International Pensions, said that its salesforce was not paid on a commission basis and was not under pressure to do "a hard sell". Liberty International, which also owns Capital Shopping Centres, intends to start selling pensions in its outof-town malls later this year. Virgin entered the personal pensions market in November, saying that consumers mistrusted the life insurance industry and claiming that its simple products with transparent charges would revolution-ise the market. Low-cost pensions in pipeline, page 31

Northern changes start

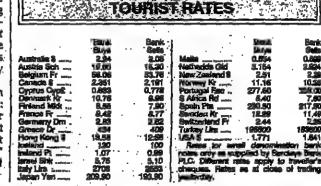
THE first changes at Northern Electric since the regional electricity company went into the control of CE Electric began yesterday with the announced sale of its stake in a combined heat and power services company. Northern Electric said that the sale of the one-third interest was expected to be completed within a month to an industrial buyer. Meanwhile boardroom changes are awaited after CE Electric, which won Northern in a hostile bid, moved in a set

EU jobless rate steady

THE European Union's average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.9 per cent for the seventh consecutive month in November, representing 18.2 million jobless. The unemployment rate was 10.8 per cent in November 1995. The EU rate is double the US rate of 5.4 per cent and three times Japan's 3.4 per cent rate. Of the 15 EU nations. Britain recorded the largest fall over the month, down 0.4 percentage points from October to 7.5 per cent. Spain had the highest rate (22.3 per cent) and Loxembourg the lowest (3.3 per cent).

Airbus partner deal

AIRBUS, the consortium that includes British Aerospace yesterday signed up Fokker Aviation of The Netherlands and Belair of Belgium as design partners in a bid to revive the flagging fortunes of the A3XX, the planned 550-sent superjumbo. Boeing, the world's leading planemaker, is already marketing an enlarged version of the 747. Airbus said that it is negotiating with other aerospace companies worldwide with the aim of placing up to 40 per cent of the A3XX work content with new partners.



ing of the First Sport and Blacks Outdoor chains, enderson. former head of distributor reported a strong Porterbrook. A rhird consor-tium led by Albert Scardino. joyed a 22 per cent rise in like-for-like sales. Simon Bentley, rise in sales and profit margins (Martin Barrow writes). husband of Marjorie Scarding. The company said that total the chairman and chief execusales rose were 45 per cent tive, said that the new Pearson's new chief executive. higher in the 44 weeks to has yet to make a formal offer. ActiveVenture format traded

SHARES in Blacks Leisure.

which rose by an extraordi-

nary 680 per cent in 1996,

jumped again vesterday after

the leisure wear retailer and

THE BIG FREEZE

5.49% (5.8%APR)

MORTGAGE RATE FROZEN

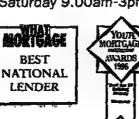
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Majestic lifestyle based on a nose for a deal

Paul Durman meets a man at the heart of a wine warehouse operation, whose buying decisions hold the key to commercial success

6 We never

buy abroad

because abroad

wines taste

different 9

THERE can be few businessmen who can tell you with conviction: "Quality control is always exciting." Yet this is what Tony Ma-

him. Mason is in charge of purchasing for Majestic Wine, the company that sells a million cases of wine a year to middle-class professionals. His is the key role in deciding what wines will be available in the converted petrol stations, churches and other oddities that comprise Majestic's warehouse stores.

son says, and there is

little reason to doubt

The wine must first pass through Majestic's headquarters in Watford to be quality tested by Mason and his team. We taste a bottle of everything as it arrives to make sure it's up to scratch," he explains. "That's always a mice moment in the afternoon when we taste the day's delivery. We bring in competitors' ranges and taste those, too. Those are always fun and interesting." It's a tough job but

someone has to do it. Mason, 51, the company's trading director, is the heart of Majestic, which next week releases its first results since it listed on the Alternative Investment Market. He was a founder of the

company in 1981, and has : been involved with wine warehouses ever since though not always with Majestic, and not always with the success that the company enjoys at resent. He is renowned for his deal-making, and is always on the lookout for interesting "parcels"

bit like a truffle hound when he gets the scent. You never knew quite what he's going to come up with next."

A classic example came last year when he picked up 47,000 cases of wine for a knockdown £650,000 or so - from Sweden of all places. Mason jumped on a plane to take advantage of a liquidation of stock by Sweden's state liquor board. Majestic's Swedish promotion was a

Mason's trading flair is built on an entire career spent in the wine business. He came into the industry by chance when, on leaving school in 1962, he went to work for Fortnum & Mason, bottling and labelling wines by fiand in the huge cellar Formums then owned under Piccadilly. He readily acknowledges that his initial enthusiasm was "more about 17 and working in Soho in 1962". Mason went on to learn about retailing, working for the men he regards as the two great wine merchants of their time — the mercurial Ahmed Pochee, who founded Oddbins, and Brian Barnett, the founder of Augustus Barnett.

The allure of wine has helped Majestic. to make a sparkling stock market debut. its shares, placed at 160p in November, have quickly raced to 285 2p. City presen-

tations attracted much more interest than

larger but duller companies.

Mason dispels romantic notions that his job is all about driving through the French countryside, occasionally stopping off to share a leisurely bottle with local farmers. Much of the business is conducted at trade fairs. Trips to the vineyards are tightly scheduled, with six or eight visits squeezed in each day over a three or four-day visit. "We spend 15 minutes talking to you

and taste all the wines you have available. We don't socialise or fraternise. We taste and say. That wine and that wine, I like, Send me a sample and your best price'. We never, never commit to purchase abroad because it tastes totally different abroad than it does in the tasting office." Mason and his team each make 12 buying trips a year. Purchasing has to dovetail with Majestic's regular promo-

tions, seven each year.

Mason insists that every wine is tasted with the price chalked clearly on the bottle. He says the best wine buyers come from the sales side since they have a clear feel for what customers want to buy. The danger to avoid is buyers buying for their

own more educated palates.

Mason's own specialities are the classic French appellations of the Loire Valley, Rhone and Burgundy, he has handed

over responsibility for Bordeaux to a younger colleague. He says he is too old to buy New World wines from Aus-California or South Africa. Despite their popularity, Mr Mason remains suspicious. "I don't particularly enjoy the very obvious

fruity flavours of New World wine. They're nice keting director of Majestic, says: "He's a to drink on their own, but they don't work bit like a truffle hound when he gets the with food." He adds: "It's that element in, say, a claret which you might find quite difficult — the dryness, the astringency— which, actually, if you're drinking claret with roast lamb, is terribly, terribly

After 34 years in the wine business, he is much more attracted to the complexities of Bordeaux. He adds: "That's what happens with the consumer, actually. If you're drinking Australian Shiraz now. you'll be enjoying claret in 20 years' time

in a way you wouldn't enjoy it now."

He believes his tastes are in tune with Majestic's customers, who spend an average of more than \$4.50 a bottle which means there are thousands of cases of wine going out at £9,99". Indeed, Majestic's most successful product at as was a Bize-Leroy Royal Burgundy at £9.99.

Straightforward and unassuming, Mason remains some way from being a wine snob. His staff say that the greatest accolade he can pay a wine is: That will be really good with sausages." He says he sted in other people's reactions, and likes to try out Majestic's wines on his family, including his two daughters, both in their late 20s. Gallingly, his mother continues to insist that the only place to



buy wine is Sainsbury's. "She's quite good for me," he grins.

His home in St Albans betrays another of his passions - steam trains. He even has a narrow-gauge train, such as you might see in an amusement park, in his hallway. He is also a passionate Frank Sinatra ian and a keen walker.

Mason first became involved with warehouse selling in the late 1970s when he was working for North West Vintners, the company that held the liquor concession for Kwik Save. North West Vintners had a warehouse in Hampstead, but the wines, based around the Kwik Save product range, were not right.

Working as his own buyer, Mason tried again when he moved on to Majestic Vintners in 1980. Although the firm succumbed to losses sustained on its finewine broking activities t Mason was convinced he could make warehouses work. When Giles Clarke and Esme Johnstone bought Majestic from the receivers, Mason joined them as

retail director. He says the Battersea store was the first that really took off. "Battersea was being inhabited by people who worked in the City and the West End, the new yuppie ciass [who] were obviously going to be

sophisticated enough to be regular wine drinkers."

The basic formula has changed little in the intervening years, though Majestic's progress has been more chequered. The company embarked on an ill-fated Californian venture in the

mid-1980s, prompting Mason to leave to set up Wizard Wine. hursday how sharply property riday

prices had moved and was soon struggling. having started Wizard without enough money. He was rescued by one of his customers - John Apthorp, who ran the Bejam frozen food chain. Bejam bought

He failed to realise

Wizard in 1987, but was itself taken over by iceland shortly afterwards.

Apthorp bought Wizard back from iceland, bringing Mason and Tim How. then Bejam's managing director, along to run it. In 1991 Wizard was able to buy Majestic, in trouble once again, for £2.5 million. Wizard soon rebranded its own stores as Majestic, and set about its expansion.

Mason admits that his trading strengths are not matched by his ability to run organisations. Still, with better luck and timing, he might already have made a lot of money from wine warehouses. But it is Apthorp who has scooped the lion's share of the rewards from Majestic. The Apthorp family's holding is currently worth more than £20 million. Mason's

holdings of shares and options promise him a comfortable retirement rather than significant wealth.

Mason expresses no regrets, and is delighted that Majestic is now a quoted company. "It's fabulous to give a value and a meaning to all the years of hard work," he says.

Salaries in the wine trade are modest -Mason is Majestic's second-highest paid director on £42,500 a year. The rewards lie elsewhere. "Buying and selling wine is a nice business, and it attracts nice people," he says. "I've got friends who earn six-figure salaries who work in the computer industry or in insurance businesses, and they think, God, it must be bloody wonderful'. Compared with what they have to do. I suppose it is."

The gallery where art lovers can jet in for a flying visit

magine a modern gal-lery space, large, well lit, quiet and furnished with comfortable chairs and cafeterias, that is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and is guaranteed 1,000 wealthy visitors a day, 3,000 on peak days. Not a bad place to show your wares if you are an up and coming artist. In fact, the gallery has just opened, in Heathrow Terminal 4, in British Airways's business, first class and Con-

corde lounges. And this is real art, not lamentable wallpaper art in non-contentious pastels. which you normally try to avoid looking at in airport lounges. BA has quietly gathered over the years an interesting collection of works by living British artists, which have been hidden in the chairman's office and in boardrooms and lounges, lost somewhere within the myriad of BA buildings scattered around Heathrow. The collection is a fine one, with works by Bridget Riley, Paul Huxley, John Hoyland, David Nash and Sean Scully, all recognised artists of the Seventies and Eighties whose delicate work has stood the harsh tests of time

British Airways has now decided to excavate its collection, as it were, to retrieve it from boardrooms and offices and hang it where its most precious customers can see it - in the executive lounges. In addition, the company has borrowed a range of works by other contemporary artists, on loan from a number of London galteries and from the Royal College of Art. With

Joanna Pitman says BA's collection improves journeys from Heathrow



consultancy, the company a selection of works domiplans to open up all of its 180 nated by Peter Blake, the lounges around the world to collections by living local

The collections will be changed every six months so that executive travellers who are regular visitors to London will have the benefit of a living gallery that is constantly changing. Heathrow Terminal 4 lounges are

Peter Blake's I Love You has attracted several offers the help of Artwise, the art the first to be adapted as gallery space, currently with

> associate artist of the National Gallery. Within days of his tapes tries, paintings and prints being hung, travellers were asking whether they could buy them and take them, there and then. One pop tapestry entitled I Love You

has attracted several offers

feeling guilty on their way home from a long business

As yet they are not for sale, but intended for display and for the edification of BA passengers and staff. Guaranteed to gladden jet-lagged eyes is the clutch of wonderful jewel-like works from the brush of Howard Hodgkin - these have somehow escaped the eagle eye of the curator at the current Hayward Gallery show. There is a huge John Piper tapestry hanging over the entrance to the lounge, there are two substantial works by Dame Elisabeth Frink and two impressive prints by David Hockney. Eduardo Paolozzi is included, as is Paula Rego.

The works speak mainly of contentment and joy. Some are calm, some are boisterously lively. Many of the Blakes are finely detailed works and the current display includes elements of his well-known Alphabet. There are eight works by Eileen Cooper, on loan from the Jason Rhodes Gallery, all monumental in scale but also joyful lyrical pieces.

Of course, in every location the art has to appeal to as wide a range of international travellers as possible, and overtly political or religious themes must be avoided. To appeal to all and avoid being bland is not easy. But Artwise has managed to include plenty of tone and temper in its first hang. If you are a business class traveller, be sure to leave plenty of time before your flight to appreciate the

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STOCK MARKET



Share prices breach 4,200 for first time

SHARE prices on both sides of the Atlantic hit fresh highs. with London breaching 4,200 for the first time.

Turnover in London reached more than 1.2 billion shares in a day of mixed trading that saw the FT-SE 100 index halve an early 21 point lead to close 10.2 higher at a record 4,207.7. That stretches the rise on the week

The boost to turnover came from the expiry of the FT-SE 100 index options, which had dealers scrambling to cover short positions before the deadline. Once the options had expired, the profit-takers moved in and left prices closing below their best levels of the day.

Guinness accounted for a large percentage of overall turnover, with the price retreating 4p to 432p as 266.55 million shares changed hands. LVMH, the French luxury goods group, has unloaded a large part of its 21 per

cent stake in the company. Goldman Sachs, the US securines house, handled the placing of 135 million shares at 414p. Guinness acquired 44 million of these, amounting to 2.3 per cent, for cancellation. Last March Guinness bought back 100 million of its own shares. LVMH continues to hold a 14.2 per cent stake.

There was further heavy turnover in Hanson, headed by Lord Hanson, as the price firmed 3p to 92p. A total of 46.7 million shares changed hands, with much of the demand stemming from the US before the final stage of the group's demerger programme next month.

Talk of a break-up lifted **Redland** 8½p to 342½p. Panimure Gordon, the broker. set tongues wagging by sug-gesting a break-up of the business after meeting the company earlier this week.

Panmure is convinced that the French aggregates business will be sold, paving the way for further sales, including its domestic aggregates business, which could be worth up to £350 million. Pannure has set a target price for the shares in the short term

Worries that the rail regulafor may force Railtrack to spend heavily on its infrastructure left the shares down 15p at 398½p. As a result, Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, has turned bearish of the stock.



There was heavy turnover in Hanson, headed by Lord Hanson

P&O fell ISp to 634p as UBS, the broker, cut its profit forecast for 1997 by £35 million to £375 million. It blamed the move on the continuing problems at the container shipping

Brokers warmed to a trading statement from Storehouse, with the price closing 17'20 higher at 275p, reducing the fall on the week to 5p. The

quired to merge Norweb Retailing with its chain of Comet

Blacks Leisure, the best performing share of 1996, rose 1612 p to 401 2 p on the back of a positive trading update. The group reported a 22 per cent increase in like-for-like sales during the first 44 weeks of the year. Nick Bubb, retail analyst, at MeesPierson, the bro-

Rolls-Royce rose 4p, to 233p, supported by positive comments from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Henderson Crosthwaite, the rival broker. Hoare says the shares are undervalued. Henderson says a target price of 275p is realistic. R-R has been supplying engines for Boeing and Airbus, which have seen orders pick up.

retailer reported better than expected sales growth of 14 per cent at Bhs, but trading at Mothercare proved disap-pointing. Brokers are still looking for full-year pre-tax profits of between £120 million

and £123 million for the year. Kingfisher ended 212p better at 66412 p after confirming plans to shed 1,200 jobs from its 2,800 workforce at Norweb Retailing that it bought in

ker, has now increased his pre-tax profits forecast for the full year from E9.25 million to £10 million.

Whispers that a line of six million shares was overhanging the market depressed Rank Organisation. which ended the session 812 p down at 417p. It transpired that a line of one million had passed

through the market at 421p. Yorkshire Electricity, one of two remaining independent

| Week's | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| charge | |
| +37°p | Brokers' recommendation |
| | Returns from suspension |
| | Bumper profits |
| -40/sp. | Anna mare prome |
| +40 | Agrees merger termsBid approaches |
| +17p | Bic approaches |
| -23 | Company batfled by recent rise |
| +41%p. | Speculative buying |
| | Profit warning |
| 1.4415.0 | Renewed Institutional buying |
| 4411d | "" Denisukacı Hishinfolkin Orbilifi |

November. The job losses are part of the restructuring reregional electricity companies. MOVERS OF THE WEEK

taking. Earlier this week, the shares were pushed sharply higher on the back of positive comments from Kleinwort

enson, the broker. Biocompatibles International, one of the most popular share tips for 1996, enjoyed a new lease of life with the price surging 422p to 905p as one big seller withdrew from the market. Kleinwort Benson. the broker, continues to buy the shares after making Biocompatibles one of its naps for the year.

A profits warning left Corporate Executive Search. which is listed on the AlM. down 14 p at 24 p. The group. which specialises in finding jobs for executives in the hightechnology and finance indus-tries, says that half-year results this month will show a modest increase in profits. But it adds that operating profits for the full year will be

substantially below last time. Multimedia Corporation also dropped 14p to 21p on a profits warning. The group says it now expects to make losses of between £750,000 and £1 million in the second half of 1996 and plans to write down new titles.

Clyde Petroleum firmed 1/2 p to 123p as a war of words with Gulf Canada, the predator, continued to hot up. Gulf Canada poured scorn on the high valuation placed on Clyde by its directors, who a few months earlier had sold shares in the market. Clyde accused Gulf Canada of failing to mention share purchases made at the same time. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Prices in London continued to make headway, outperforming German bunds as investors made the most of the Chancellor's decision not to raise interest

Next week the Bank of England is scheduled to unveil details of the next auction and that may temper demand temporarily. But brokers are confident that there is further scope for improvement as investors become increasingly confident about the outlook for

interest rates medium term. In the futures pit, the March E4 to finish at £111 in moderate trading.

NEW YORK: A rally in

high-tech shares and a stable bond market kept Wall Street steady. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Tokyo: Hong Kong. 13856.40 (+25.72) Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt: Singapore: Paris Zurich FTSE Mid 250 4583.4 (+17.5)

London: FTSE 350 3087.7 (+5.7 FTSE Europeach (U) _____2023.73 (+15.94)
FT All-Share _____2061.07 (+5.81)
FT Non Financials _____2112.72 (+5.80) 1.6683 |-0.0069

RECENT ISSUES

| Aquarius | 1744 | |
|---------------------|------------------|------|
| BZW Endowment R | ed 56 | + 1 |
| Cadcentre | 257's | |
| Enterprise Vent Cap | 935 | |
| Epicore Network | 55 | |
| GB Railways | 2871 | + 1 |
| Hardy Underwrig | 170 | - 5 |
| Neicall | 451 _L | |
| Oxford Biomedica | 5712 | |
| Parkwood Holdings | 74'1 | |
| Pilat Technologies | 504 | |
| Sheffleld United | 1011 | |
| Sunderland | 745 | + 10 |
| Sutton Harbour | 132 | |
| Wst Brom Albion | 6235 | - 15 |
| | | |

RIGHTS ISSUES

| 1 | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Ashquay n/p (33) | 24 | | |
| Compel Gp n/p (160) | 312 | | |
| Pressac n/p (180) | 58 | + | 4 |
| Prism Rail n/p (330) 2 | 50 | + : | 50 |
| RPC n/p (142) | 31: | - | 1 |
| Shaftesbury n/p (137) | 245 | + | ì |
| Wickes n/p (150) | 18 | - | 14 |
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MAJOR CHANGES

| Vero ., | 185p (+111 ₃ |
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| Blocomes Inti | 005o (+42)- |
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| Regent Inns | 367'ap (+14 |
| Affen | 291p (+261s |
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| Glenmorangle A | . 950p (+25 |
| Kewli Svs | 804p (+151: |
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| Loughie Men | 420.35 (+ In |
| | RISES: Vero Therp Anti Inc Groupe Chez Ger Blocomps Inti Courtsuid Text Celibach Regent Inns After Robert Weiters Storehouse SIG Caracion Glenmorangle A Kewill Sys WF Elect Airtours London & Man |

619p (-15p Closing Prices Page 45

..... 1781:p (-10p

TEMPUS

Pension benefits

fascination with like-for-like

sales data rests on pretty shaky foundations. Retailers

have plenty of leeway to massage them. And al-

though like-for-likes may

ONCE UPON A TIME, fund managers were middle-aged, goggle-eyed and unloved. Shy creatures, they watched bemused and slightly envious as their opposite numbers in stockbroking firms hopped into fast cars and big bonuses. Somewhere along the way, however, the mould broke and fund managers became superstars with salaries to match.

What have they done to deserve fame and fortune? Little, it seems. About five years ago, the big banks realised that the predictable fees earned by fund managers were a virtue compared with the volatile profits from corporate finance and share trading. Banks went about poaching staff and driving up salaries. At the same time, corporate governance became fashionable and shy fund managers became media stars, taking to task company directors for

ineptitude and venality. We should be grateful that fund managers no longer cringe before industry fat cats. But

how impressive are these fund managers? Most are so-called active managers, picking stocks rather than tracking share indices. However, according to the WM Company, which measures pension fund performance there is little evidence that stock-picking pays off consistently. Of course, some managers do very well some of the time, but the poor performers drag down the average. Over time, UK pension funds marginally underperform. A mere index tracker will always rank slightly higher than the median

between the best and the worst. Why then should fund managers earn so much money? For a fund worth £10 billion, a shift of 10 per cent in value is £1 billion. Put in that perspective, it is easy to see why fund managers can earn £1 million. Nevertheless. from a pensioner's point of view, it is a shocking waste of money. An index-tracking computer would be more reliable and cost less than the hungry fund managers.

bother to provide the data

This month has seen some

astonishingly harsh share

price judgements (notably on

Storehouse

BUOYANT Christmas trading at Bhs lit up Storehouse yesterday. The shares floated higher but an argument about sales figures is hurting the company and some analysts cut their forecasts. Pedestrian sales growth

has long been a worry at Bhs and Mothercare, but in recent months Storehouse has attracted criticism of its presentation of sales figures. Storehouse adopted same store rather than the more familiar like-for-like reporting of sales because of its programme of extending its sales area into former stockrooms. Storehouse angrily dismisses the thrust of the criticism as rubbish and save any discrepancy will soon drop out of the year-on-year

At the very least, the spat illustrates that the City's

Argos) in response to per-haps unexceptional but fun-damentally good figures. appear in a company's annu-Investors need to remember report, auditors do not that volatility is good for the subject them to the same degree of scrutiny that they broking business and a row apply to gross sales. Marks & Spencer does not even about sales figures is grist to LIKED OR DISUKED STOREHOUSE

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

Shell

A CURSORY view of Shell's fascination with electricity generation suggests that the directors have lost their marbles. Having spent years painfully shedding non-core assets, why venture into another capital-intensive business with low returns? American utilities are bidding for generator projects in the Third World at tiny margins over their cost of capital. With no experience what value can Shell add to

this business! The answer is gas. For years Shell has been criticised for its failure to replace its production with new re-But the company has vast discoveries, which it has yet to book in its balance sheet because it has yet to find a profitable use for the fuel. Unlike oil, gas is difficult to

transport and without a com-

DOLLAR RATES

mercial buyer it has no value. But electricity is transportable by wire at lowish costs. The huge Camisea gasfield in Peru, or the Kudu field in Namibia, might be made commercial with electricity generation.

Shell will need partners to build and run its power stations but even a lowish return on electricity generation would be worth the opportunity of lifting the gas from these giant fields.

Guinness

THE DECISION by LVMH to reduce its stake in Guinness could have caused further damage to the flagging Guinness share price coming just two days after the drinks company issued a weak trading statement. But Guinness moved quickly to snap up a third of the placed shares, propping up the

moves some of the uncertainty over the relationship between the two companies. Rumours of Bernard Arnault's increasing distillusionment with Guinness began to circulate in the summer and LVMH are now committed to holding its remaining 14.2 per cent stake for at least another year. Guinness still has the cash and the legal right to buy back more shares, and the City is anticipating a further buy-in when the company reveals its fullyear results in March. That hope and the anticipation of a healthy dividend increase should put a floor under the share price.

More importantly, it re-

But for all the technical Guinness shares will only really take off when sales in its spirits division show signs

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

| | COMMODITIES | |
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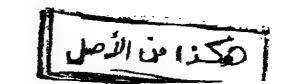
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WALLSTREET





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Food stores safe in uncertain times

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Woolwich savers left out in cold



LE LEST PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Battle to win investors' votes



Gavin Lumsden and Anne Ashworth check out a new wave of Pep products being offered ahead of the election

Minister ponders the most propi-tious date for the general election, the financial ervices industry is busy making money out of the political

Legal & General and Lloyds have launched schemes this week that they claim will help nvestors to survive any decline in the market that could follow a Labour victory, or the vicissitudes of a hung Parliament.

Insurance companies are also trying to anticipate pension reforms that could be passed by Labour, attempting to show that they can provide pensions at low cost (see

As this election inspired per-sonal equity plan (Pep) and pension sales drive gets into full swing, investors seeking specific guidance on the election's impact on share values will be disappointed to learn among analysts on the direction of the market if Tony Blair, the Labour leader, moves into No 10.

Many maintain that a Labour victory has already been priced into the market and still expect shares to rise 10 per cent this year. Others believe that shares would start to fall only if Labour made a highly unpopular move after some months in office.

Labour is making every effort to please private investors and City institutions alike ahead of the polls, without making any specific policy statements. The party has been making much of its desire to offer affordable pensions to the 11 million people currently not in occupational

schemes. It also wants to encourage millions more to save with flexible independent savings accounts.

This week Michael O'Brien. Labour City spokesman, restated his party's commitment to economic stability and low inflation, words intended to reassure those who remember the last time Labour was in

But despite Mr O'Brien's soothing words, Legal & General expects that the index will numble if his party gains power. More surprisingly, in a week when the index continued to hit new records, the company is also pessimistic about the market's chances, even if John Major is returned to power. L&G analysts believe that a hung Parliament would spell volatility, while a small Labour majority would mean in-fighting on the Labour front and back benches, also leading

to market nervousness. A large majority for Mr Blair, says L&G, would knock share values because there would be fears of radical action. If Mr Major were to be re-elected, his party would continue to be plagued by dissent over Europe - also bad news for the index.

For those alarmed by all these predictions, L&G's new General Election Pep offers a seemingly irresistible 140 per cent of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares over five years, plus the return of the capital invested.

L&G claims that its Pep minimises the risk of a market fall because it will take the average level of the index in the first 12 months of the five-year period of the Peo as its starting point, and the last 12-month

average as its ending point. Taking a 12-month average would normally halve the sum you could expect to receive. But L&G predicts that the market will fall this year and says that the average level and starting point could be below its present level, around 4.207.

The lower the figure, it argues, the more potential for growth, without the exposure to large one-day falls. So if the FT-SE 100 rises to an average price of 6,400 in its last 12 months of the five-year period you would get 61.2 per cent return. When multiplied by the promised 140 per cent this gives a total return of 85.7 per cent. That may sound attractive, but the figures bear closer

ike all other "protected" schemes linked to the FT-SE 100, the election Pep relies solely on capital growth. which has averaged about 7.5 per cent a year since the 1920s, much less than the total return, which includes dividend income, of 11.9 per cent. No income is paid out.

If the market does not fall this year, the effect of the averaging loses you six months' performance at each end of the term of the Pep. This means that overall you lose one year's potential growth. which means that the true

term of the Pep is four years. not five.

Over four years and multiplied by 140 per cent, the capital return works out at 42 per cent. Convert this back into an annual rate and the result is 7.1 per cent. slightly less than the average 7.5 per cent growth figure for the market.

You might conclude that this middling return is not much compensation for having your money locked up for five years. You may also wonder why, if you are receiving no income. you should be investing in a Pep the principal attraction of which is the shelter it provides against income tax and capital

L&G has also extended the election idea to its pensions range, with a five-year Guaranteed Equity Fund. Here it could make sense if you are planning to retire soon and want to protect your gains to date.

The new Safety First fund from the unit trust arm of Lloyds offers a fixed minimum price for your investment, protecting against sharp falls in share prices.

The starting Safety price is 90.25p. A new price will be set each year if the market rises. but not at a lower level than the initial Safety price. Similar funds have been launched by Govett, NatWest and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

If you are truly alarmed by the possible impact of a Labour victory on your wealth, you might be better off in a fund that does not lock you in for such a long period. You can take shelter for a while and venture out again if everything seems calm.

Election shadow, page 36

Low-cost pensions in the pipeline

been regarded as the from premiums.

of relying only on the state pension, there is little chance of personal pensions being scrapped altogether should Labour form the next government. Some of

abour has traditionally the party's more traditionalminded members would like to see a national pension fund set up to invest in ethical and government projects.

However, the new guard are planning a "stakeholder pension" to replace the state earnings. related pension scheme (Serps), the additional state scheme, and to rival personal plans. These would

be provided through partnerships between the State and the private sector, with an emphasis on low cost and simplicity. The plans would have built-in life insurance. Savings plans would also be

encouraged.

Marc Hommel, a director of Liberty international Pensions, said that John Denham. Labour's pensions spokesabout partnership schemes with the private sector.

Mr Hommel says that any government, be it Conservative or Labour com, will have to consider abolishing the rules that limit the amount of taxfree pension contributions a raxpayer can make. "It makes

lenemy of the personal pension, partly because it obects to the high fees deducted As the party has no intention

Case for cash from Gas

nvestors normally have a duty to promote the long-term health of the business they jointly own. But there are exceptions. British Gas shareholders PERSONAL INVESTOR have to decide what to do about one next month. For the clearest case arises when officialdom is bent on a company's financial destruction. This policy is embodied in the 1995 Gas Act, which left the group's supply business liable for about £30 billion of uneconomic contracts, and in the later Ofgas plan to force BG's Transco pipe-

line business to subsidise competition. Worst of all, this policy is bipartisan. The 1.7 million victims at least have a shareholders of about minus £2.5 bilperfect response to party canvassers lion. Kindly oil companies might cancel asking for our vote at the general them for El billion less.

election. Whether they are Conservative, The TransCo pipeline and storage business, hitherto the big steady earner, Labour or Liberal Democrat, just say Sorry, I am a British Gas shareholder". In the first eight years, shares in the privatised monopoly performed in line with the UK market average, even a little better during the recession: no "excess" profits. During the past two years, the share average has risen 30 per Mergers Commission, due to report in cent. British Gas shares have fallen April, the business will become risky as roughly the same. At 223p, Merrill well as low-profit. Olgas seems to Lynch's European utilities team still reckon that the remaining equity should says: "British Gas strikes us as the most overvalued in our research universe."

Few investors would choose to back either of the group's two big regulated businesses from scratch. British Gas Trading, which supplies 19 million customers with gas, faces a progressive loss of market share with no upside and low margins. Costs are bound to stay higher than newcomers' and pension costs will soon rise by £35 million a year. To complete the happy picture, it still has "take-or-pay" contracts to buy gas at above today's prices, signed when it had to supply all the gas people wanted. On best estimates, which could be wildly wrong, these contracts have a value to

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

faces sustained regulatory attack. This aims to cut £400 million off profit and then to set annual cost-cutting targets that British Gas believes, rightly or wrongly, cannot safely he made. Without help from the Monopolies and

be progressively eliminated. In this crazy situation, shareholders want their board to withdraw as much equity as possible. Tax permitting, it should hive off British Gas oil and gas production assets before these too are lost. At prices now being paid, unregulated businesses must be worth 64 billion of the group's £9 billion market value. The cost of take-or-pay contracts would ideally be met by drawing debt on TransCo, which even Ofgas reckons be worth £11.7 billion gross. TransCo's net profits should all go in dividends, since no expansion is justi-

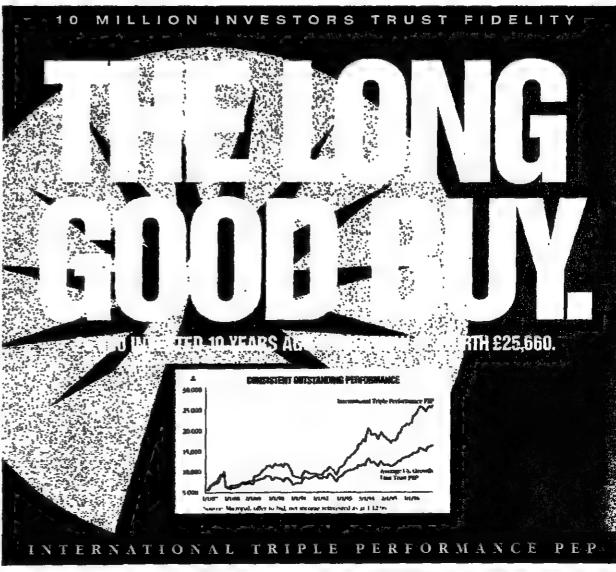
fied. Once TransCo is debt-laden, Ofgas

would have little equity left to eliminate: it must allow reasonable finance costs.

The board, by contrast, aims to restructure British Gas in its best longterm trading interest - normally com-mendable. It wants to demerge British Gas Trading, as officialdom wishes, to compete independently in a wider utility service market. Sadly, Trading would be insolvent on its own. So the prize Morecambe Bay gasfields, worth £2 billion to £2.5 billion, are thrown in to form the new quoted vehicle Centrica, already nicknamed Cedrica. Management is likely to unwind gas deals in exchange for most of Morecambe.

Good money is being thrown after bad. Dividends from the rump BG plc will be roughly halved and Centrica will pay nothing. The plan, designed to cope with the "take or pay" problem, is out of date. But management is stretched and committed, and things are now so bad that it cannot borrow more on TransCo at much better than junk ratings.

f controlling fund managers go along with the board, small investors will have two risky shares instead of one Pessimists should sell ahead of the split. But risk means things cam go right too, so optimists can hone. British Gas might escape a Labour levy. Centrica is expected to start trading at about 45p a share, but has speculative value. If gas contracts are dealt with, it would appeal to a power generator that wanted a huge, nationwide distributor. Worth keeping for a while. BG is at the mercy of the MMC. If Sir Graeme Odgers, its commonsense chairman, has the courage to reject neo-socialist Ofgas economics and official solidarity, he will at least insist that TransCo be allowed enough profit for market value to match regulatory value. The City thinks he won't. Over to you Sir Graeme.



WEEKEND MONEY

is edited by Anne Ashworth

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Transatlantic temptation

of switching to US credit cards

Gavin Lumsden on the attraction f your credit card is suffer-ing a Christmas spending

cash advances, much better

than the 20-plus per cent rates available from the high street

issuers. In addition there is no

A hangover you could switch to a card with a lower rate. Many small issuers, particularly the US firms such as MBNA International and Capital One, are trying to make the switch as easy as possible and are offering low introductory rates to tempt you across. They want to break the stranglehold of the seven high street banks which

dominate 85 per cent of the credit card market in the UK despite their high charges.

The latest challenge is from RBS Advanta, a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Scotland and Advanta. a US credit card issuer, which is offering an introductory rate of 9.9 APR on its standard and gold Visa cards until January 1998. The APR will then rise to

ing to them could save you up to £99 this year if you are currently borrowing £1,000 on a credit card from a bank. The most expensive is Bar-claycard Standard Visa. Borrow £2,000 with it this year and it will cost you £189 more

est-free credit.

EZ78 more on £3,000. There are similar savings to be had ditching the Visa and Access cards issued by the Midland. 8.88 per cent above the base Lloyds, NatWest and TSB. rate, currently 6 per cent. On High charging is not restricted to the banks, however. today's terms this would give With 20.9 per cent APR on purchases, the GM Visa Card an APR of 15.9 per cent for

comes out £88 more expensive on £1,000, £176 on £2,000 and £265 on £3,000. But Rod Urquhart, manag-

ing director of People's Bank Connecticut, one US issuer annual fee and 56 days' inter-RBS Advanta claims switchthat has not yet succumbed to making a low-cost offer, says that borrowers could get a shock when the offers end and the APR jumps suddenly. The People's Bank APR is currently 14.4 per cent and there is no annual fee

To make its argument even. than with RBS Advanta and more compelling RBS Advanta has also implemented a "transfer and save" service. Once you have filled in the one-page application form and your creditworthiness scrutinised, the company will send you a card, a PIN number and four cheques.

You can then start your ac-

or if this is too much effort ring

up with your PIN number. Mark Austin, planning and development manager at RBS Advanta, says you can also use the cheques to pay off large bills from doctors, solicitors or architects who would not normally accept credit cards. However, there is no cheque

guarantee card. He encourages people to keep their original card going and to pay it off via the phone with the RBS Advanta card. This way you can maintain perks such as air miles and still benefit from a lower rate. There are no plans to add these perks to RBS Advanta. says Mr Austin. "It is much more important that people get a better price," he says.

Mr Urquhart disagrees. He advises people cut up their old cards and avoid the complication of dealing with two balances. But whatever you do you can't lose, he says. "The big winner is the consumer."

Low-cost pensions may spark price war

Continued from page 31 no sense to allow a person under 30 earning £10,000 to put only 17.5 per cent of their earnings into a pension plan," he said. "That will not provide them with a sensible amount to live on when they retire. Both parties will need to look at

encouraging people to make better provi-sion for their old age." Meanwhile, the pensions market is already changing, in anticipation of a new occupant at No Ten. Suddenly everyone is eager to offer politically correct low-cost pensions, a develop-

ment that seems likely to result in a price war, reducing charges. After last week's launch by Eagle Star of a no-frills pension plan, Liberty Life will, on Monday, unveil details of its new pension. Liberty pledges that its costs will be as low as those of Eagle Star and Virgin.

Mr Hommel believes that in time traditional pension providers will be forced to reduce and clarify charges. "The long-established companies are going to have to change to survive," he said. "They have unsustainable cost structures, a poor public image, technology which is out of date, and

the baggage of old products and systems." He believes pensions of the future will have to be low-cost and flexible, but will still need to tie up money for 25 years. Temptation being what it is, people would tend to spend the money they had saved up unless it was out of their grasp. Nevertheless, pension providers will need to allow people to take premium holidays. and reduce or increase premiums regularly without penalty. The workforce is changing and so are working patterns."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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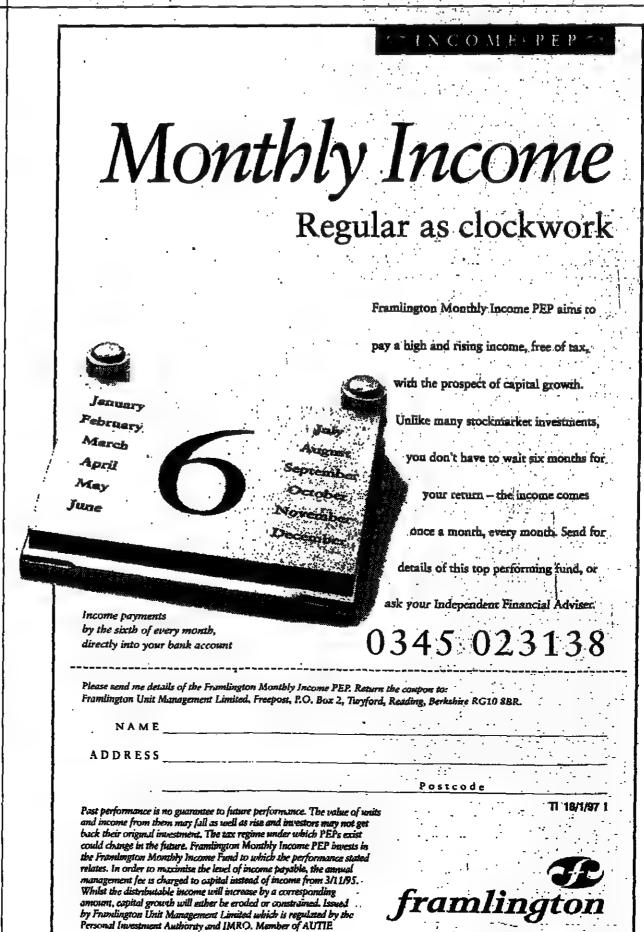
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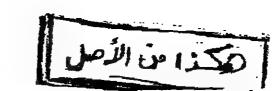
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Plain Speaking Home Insurance

Far from amicable proposal in disguise

ne major qualification for advancement at an insur-ance company has always been the ability to yawn with your mouth shut. But besides being able to disguise boredom, the aspiring senior executive must also possess a talent for tortuous language. The ability to present facts in an unintelligible manner, while making much of your commitment to plain English, is an essential weapon in the neverending campaign to keep customers

Scottish Amicable has this week announced its plan to shed its mutual status and become a quoted company in a two-stage process (see page 39). One would think a crack obscurantist team has been at work on the proposals to ensure that the policyholders do not guess that they are getting a poor deal and give a resounding "yes" to the proposals.
Unlike its fellow national, the
Norwich Union, Scottish Amicable



COMMENT -ANNE ASHWORTH

has decided not to offer shares to its I.1 million with profits policyholders who are the owners of the business. Instead it has decided to distribute two sets of bonuses to be added to policies at demonstration and at notation, in an attempt to appear

doubly generous.

The figures, however, tell a different story. The average payout under the first bonus, estimated at £75 million, will be a measly £68. Anyone with a 25-year policy maturing this year should stand to receive £1,503, but this will merely compensate for

Personal Finance Editor less than sparkling past investment

> Meanwhile, Scottish Amicable's directors will have the chance of far greater rewards under a new employee share scheme, the terms of which are another piece of impene-trable prose. Provided that the new business fund, to be set up after demunualisation, increases in value by at least 15 per cent a year, the

board could be in line for six-figure

Asked why its policyholders would

or seven figure share packages. How great it is to be an Amicable man!

Amicable could give no satisfactory interesting to hear its response if a predator emerges offering shares to policyholders. A bid is now an increasingly likely prospect and is the main reason why Scottish Amicable is seeking to change its status, despite its protestations to the contrary. Recently directors have been obsessed with fears of a hostile takeover.

The proposals will be put to the vote in March. Scottish Amicable is hopmg that they will be carried without demor. They can take comfort that policyholders rarely rebel because they are never placed in full possession of the facts.

In this instance, policyholders should not blindly believe that the board is acting in their best interests. If shares are good enough for the directors, why should those who own the business be denied a slice of the

Sara McConnell on the merits of insuring against random checks by the Revenue

Watch out for that non-racing certainty

accepayers should not be panicked into buying insurance that could cover their accountant's fees in. case they are picked at ran-dom for investigation by the Inland Revenue According to the leading chartered accountants' body, they can statistically expect random investigations just once every 1,000

The advent of self-assessment for nine million taxpayers who receive a tax return from this April gives the Inland Revenue new powers to investigate people's affairs at random without giving rea-sons for its actions. Taxpayers will have to produce their records to show that their affairs are in order or else face penalties. Those with accountants will face higher hills for cuntant has to do to satisfy the

Firms offering insurance using the Revenue's new powers as a sales book to persuade people to take out the cover. Brochures warn people that they will be at greater risk of investigation under the new regime. One leaflet, from Professional Fee Protection, begins: "Self-assessment — the bare facts: Every business is likely to be investigated The Revenue no longer needs a reason to investigate you Mistakes and delays can incur heavy penalties . . . The Inland also has limitless patience

\$ 1. 1 to 100 \$ 2.00

even those whose affairs

appear to be in order." Most policies are sold to taxpayers by their accountants who bulk-buy the insurance

But Robert Maas, chairman of the technical committee of the tax faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, said: People can expect to be randomly audited only once every 1,000 years statistically. The Inland Revenue has said it only intended to do 9,000 random audits a year out of nine million. These policies are not necessarily a rip-off, but the risks of an investigation are not that great."

r Maas, who is also a partner at Blackstone Franks, the firm of chartered accounadded that anyone taking out a policy needed to read the small print carefully, particularly the policy's defimition of what constitutes an mvestigation.

£30 and £60 for about £60,000 of cover. There is nothing to stop accountants charging clients automatically unless they

The sale of policies is not regulated in any way. Mr Maas said: The client has to take the policy on trust from the accountant. What will happen if the insurer won't pay out is that the client will turn on his accountant and

say: 'I'm not paying your fee'."
The Inland Revenue exressed concern over the claims made in some brochures. It said: There are not going to be significantly more investigations under self-assessment. It is rubbish to say that every business is likely to be investigated. There will be a code of practice for investigations which will make it clearer what it going and give

eople more certainty." Random investigations He said: "The policy should cover any investigation by the Revenue except where there is would not start until 1998, the Revenue added. fraud by the taxpayer. It is Ray Murray, of Professional unlikely to cover the cost of Fee Protection, said: "The Revsimple queries but should enue would say that wouldn't define at what stage these turn they? Kenneth Clarke an-nounced arother 2,000 investi-The cost of cover depends on ators in last November's how the policy is set up. Many Budget. Only someone who accountants pay insurers for all their clients to be covered had their head in the sand Revenue is all powerful and it and then sell the cover on, as would think there would be premiums of between about fewer investigations." TAX-FREE PEP Some PEPs' appeal can unfortunately be short-lived. The tax-free savings world of PEPs can sometimes seem a chilly place for your investment, with those hidden extras that can put a freeze on your returns. But there is a simple way around the problem. The Scottish Investment Trust PEP. With only one flat charge of £30 (plus VAT) each year; regardless of how many PEPs you have with us, you can Appellat. FEE JEST #30 PLIS WEE be sure of exactly how much you are investing. An PACINI AUST £100 PER MONER investment that you'll warm to, with consistently higher returns from a truly global portfolio of equities. Que of the world's Lubsell So don't get left out in the cold. Simply fill in the coupon or call our Freefone number. It could add a warm glow to your investment portfolio. INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

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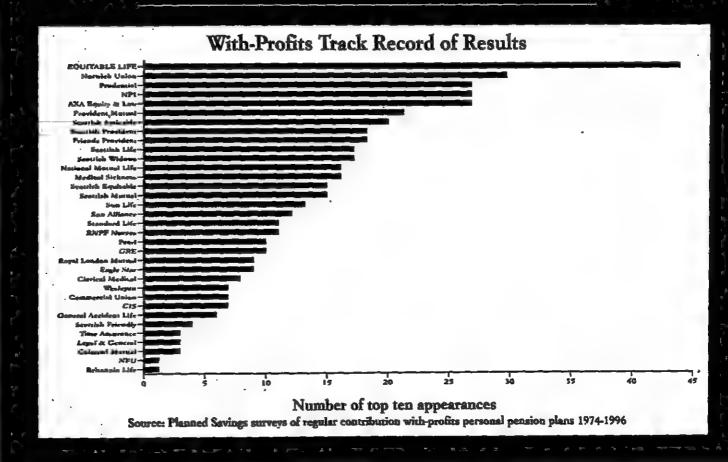
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Check out those interest rates

Sara McConnell on how to make

the most of

your savings in 1997 without

giving too much to the taxman

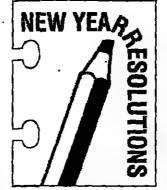
you know how much you are earning on your savings accounts? If you have not checked for some time, you are in for a shock. Rates on instant access savings accounts fell by 75 per cent on average between their peak in 1990 and their story. An estimated six million low in mid 1996, according to the Halifax Building Society. Variable-rate Tessas fell by 60 per cent from their peak,

ional Savings gross rates have more than halved since 1990. Rising base rates have started to translate into higher savings rates this year, but millions of savers in instant access accounts are earning less than the current rate of inflation of 2.5 per cent. According to a survey this

while 90-day-notice accounts

saw a fall of 70 per cent, Nat-

week commissioned by the Nationwide Building Society, 82 per cent of savers ques-



tioned did not know how much they were earning on their savings. More than a third never check their rates and just over a quarter check them only once a year. In spite of this, nearly three quarters said rates were important. But rates are only half the

non-taxpayers are eligible to claim £500 million back in tax because they have not registered for their tax to be paid gross and are still paying tax at 20 per cent on their interest, At the other end of the scale, higher rate taxpayers are failing to take advantage of taxfree savings accounts such as Tessas and so are paying 40 per cent on interest on savings accounts. Married couples are still not transferring savings into the name of a lower rate or non-taxpaying spouse to take advantage of independent taxation and save tax.



Could Bill and Ben Porter of 2point4 Children benefit by transferring accounts?

Millions of savers from societies preparing to convert to banks have been more or less locked into savings accounts for fear of losing out on generous bonuses. This should change as four societies the Halifax, Alliance & icester, Northern Rock and Woolwich - convert in the summer and autumn and the Bristol & West is sold to the

Bank of Ireland in the summer. Some of the following moves could be useful for restoring your savings to health:

Check out postal accounts. If you want instant access to your money, these pay some of the best rates. Access to your money is as instant as the postal service can make it. Postal accounts dominate the latest instant access best buy list by MoneyFacts for The Times. All rates are gross and annual. Northern Rock is paying 6.25 per cent on the minimum balance of £5,000 in its new Select Instant postal account, launched this week. Sun Banking Corporation is paying 5.75 per cent on balances of £5,000. The Coventry Building Society's new First Instant postal account pays 5.1 per cent gross on a minimum balance of £2,000.

Consider starting a Tessa. Tessa (tax-exempt special sav-ings account) rates have halved since the first accounts were launched in 1991. But they are still a good buy. A variable-rate account could be a better bet than a fixed rate as interest rates start to rise. If you have £3,000 in an instant access, notice account or bank deposit account that you can afford to lock up for five years. use it to open a Tessa. If you have not had an account

THE Nationwide Building Society has launched a

the society than with its rivals. Since last summer

campaign to persuade savers that they will get a better deal at

Nationwide has promoted itself as aggressively pro mutual, borrowers because it had opted to use some of its profits for the direct benefit of its members. Savers from other banks and building societies will be able to go into a Nationwide branch or call a freephone number (0500 302010) and compare their existing rate with Nationwide's rates. The society says its rates are on average three quarters of a percentage point higher than those of its main competitors. It says that a married couple with £9,000 each in a second generation Tessa, a daughter aged 12 with £2,000 in a youth account and a grandmother with £10,000 in an instant access account, would be £1.416 better off in the Nationwide than in Barclays,

before you can put in a maximum of £3,000 in the first year, and £1,800 in each of the succeeding four years as long as you do not exceed the £9,000 total. The best firstgeneration Tessas are paying 7 per cent or more tax-free. Best buys include the NatWest Bank and the Birmingham Midshires Building Society. You can take your interest out of your Tessa without penalty. as long as you do not with draw capital.

Think twice about fixed rates. Fixed-rate Tessas and bonds may have tempting rates now, but these may look mean in five or even one year's time if the trend towards rising interest rates continues. Some accounts have draconian penalties for withdrawal.

Don't pay too much tax. Building society and bank interest (except Tessa interest) is taxed at source at 20 per cent for lower and basic rate taxpayers and 40 per cent for higher rate taxpayers. If you are a non-taxpayer, ask for, form R85 from your branch or tex office so that you can receive interest gross. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, but your spouse is not, transfer some of your savings into his or her name so they are taxed accordingly. The transfer is

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of these, including the Nationwide, appears in the MoneyFacts best buy tables for any of the chosen accounts.

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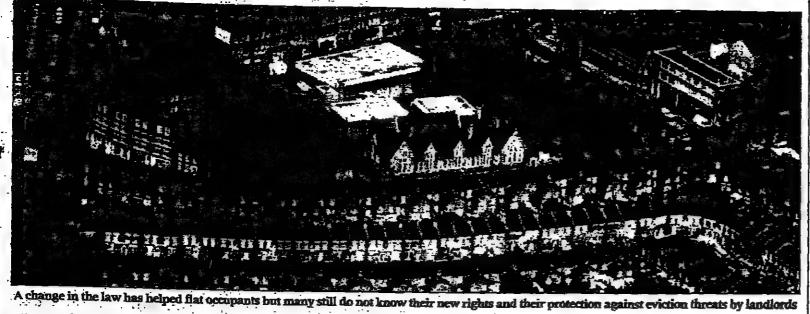
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Leaseholders under pressure

corpants of lessehold flats disputing large service charge bills are continuing to be threatened with the loss of their homes by landlords in spite of new rules giving leaseholders strengthened rights to resist such intimidation

Leas, formerly the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service, reports continuing complaints from leaseholders that landlords are attempting to force them to pay by serving them with eviction notices, believing that many leaseholders will be unaware of their new

But since October last year leaseholders have been safe from eviction unless and until the landlord can prove to a . court that the charges are reasonable. Only if flat-owners still refuse to pay can they face eviction.

The Government was forced to bring in changes after reports in The Times that landiords were using eviction notices as a first resort in service charge disputes. This was part of a wider, disturbing pattern of intimidation of leasehoiders by powerful landlords.

Peter Haler, chief executive of Leas, said: "Landlords are. Leaseholders could face openstill daring tenants to take them to court. The problem is that tenants don't know their new rights." Since the beginning of this year. Leas has expanded its role and will now offer free advice on service charge disputes in addition to advising on buying freeholds.

新原文等語题

OUTIO

So what are your rights if you are having trouble with your landlord? Over the next three months, the remainin planks of a new rait of rights ready in place. These include:

■ The right to demand a court's confirmation that service charges are reasonable. If you receive a service charge demand you consider to be unreasonable, do not be panicked into paying up. As soon as you do, you implicitly accept the charge. The experts'; advice is to wait. Before you pay anything the landlord has Landlords are continuing to threaten flat-owners with eviction despite stronger rules, says Sara McConnell

to take his case to court and ask it to rule that his demand is reasonable. Ignore attempts to panic you by serving you. with an eviction notice (the socalled section 146 notice). if you receive one, read it carefully. It should spell out your right to have the charges examined by a court. But there are several problems with this. right. The first is defining what is "reasonable". It is unreasonable of you to believe you should have to pay nothing for insurance, repairs and maintenance. Equally it is almost certainly unreasonable to be faced with major works costing tens of thousands of pounds possibly to make good earlier shoddy work. The secernment's proposed network of leasehold valuation tribunals (LVTs) will not be up and running until after April.

LVIs are intended to offer a cheaper and easier route for leaseholders fighting service charge disputes. But until April disputes will have to be handled by the county courts. ended bills for the landlord's costs if they lose as county courts have the power to award costs unlike LVTs. You could also find that your landlord asks your building society to pay the charge and

the treehold of your block. It for leaseholders will be put in ... is now a criminal offence for place after the implementation your landlord not to offer you of the Housing Act 1996, as leaseholders first refusal to important new rights are alif he wants to sell. He faces a fine of up to \$5,000 if he disobeys the law. The right of first refusal has been in place since 1987 but landlords flouted it with impunity because there were no sanctions for ignoring it. If you find your freehold has been sold without your knowledge, you can still fight back. You now have four months from when you find out you have a new landlord to

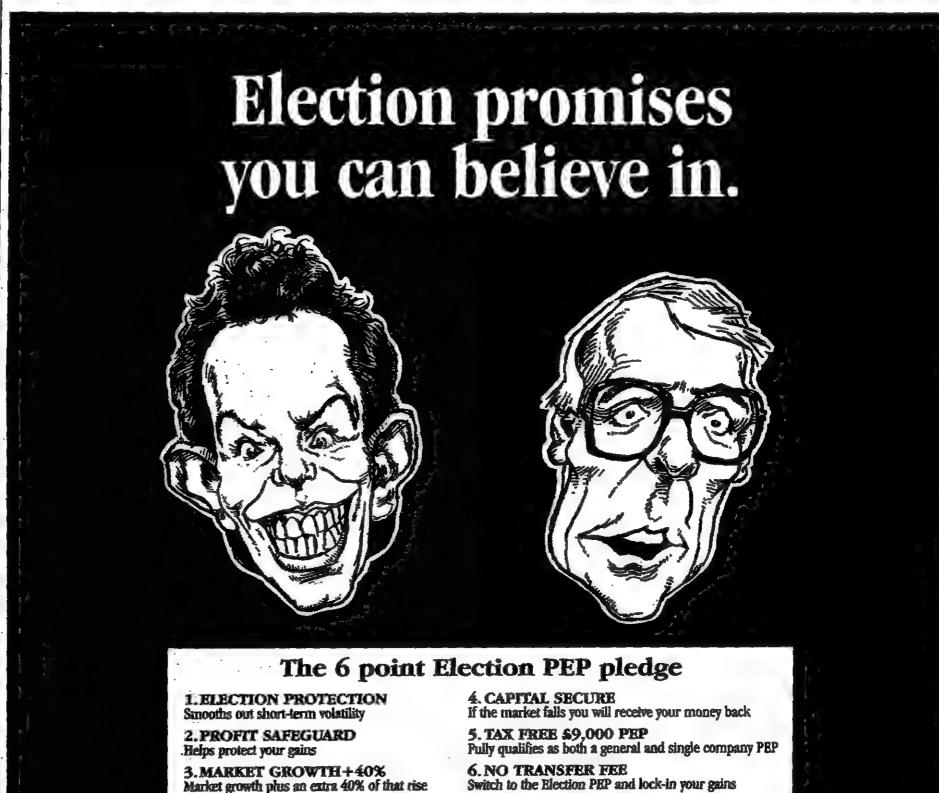
add it to your outstanding debt. Societies are still paying

up in spite of pressure from the Council of Mortgage

serve a notice on him. He has to tell you how much he paid for the freehold and explain Access to leasehold valua tion tributals. The existing network of tribunals is set to your-right to buy it to you. You be expanded from April and then have six months, rather will handle service charge than three as previously, to disputes for the first time. The buy. But these new rights rely move is intended to overcome on you knowing you have leaseholders' often-justified fears of expensive court action them. There is no onus on a which prevented many from new landlord to explain your challenging their landlords. rights unless you serve a

award costs. A maximum fee of £500 is laid down in the Act. But the Government has still not decided how to structure the fee. It is considering charging £150 for an application and a sliding scale of pre-hearing fees up to a total of £500 based either on the number of flats in a block or the number of flarowners. It has rejected the idea of charging according to the amount in dispute, which would have weighed disproportionately on those already facing the highest service LVI's will charge a set fee and

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Small is beautiful for fund managers in times of political uncertainty, Matthew Wall reports

Election casts shadow over shares



to a general election is a dangerous business. Consensus among fund man-agers and professional pun-dits tends to fly out of the window, leaving investors in the dark about which way to

In the gloom and doom corner. Oxford Economic Forecasting, for example, says that sterling's strength threatens to damage economic re-covery in 1997 as exports become relatively expensive and therefore less competitive. Growth in export volumes of goods was a healthy 8.4 per cent last year, but Oxford Economic Forecasting believes that strong sterling will put a

lid on further growth.

Similarly, Roger Bootle, chief economist of HSBC and an economic adviser to lor, is fearful for 1997's prospects if expected interest rate rises are pushed through. The rises, intended to prevent inflationary consumer spending running out of control, will help to boister sterling, he argues, further weakening British industry's competitive-



Food companies, such as Asda, of which Archie Norman is chairman, are widely regarded as safe bolt-holes

more optimistic, forecasting consumer spending growth of more than 4 per cent this year. reflecting tax cuts and an increase in confidence now that house prices are on the up again. Gross domestic product growth is forecast at a more modest 3.1 per cent. The CBI believes that interest rates are unlikely to rise beyond 7 per

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cent this year because the economy is growing steadily. not booming

The fund management industry is broadly optimistic, too, no matter which party wins the election. Roger Cornick, deputy chairman of Perpetual, the fund manager with £7 billion under management, says: "The continuation

of a low-growth, low-inflation, low-interest rate environment is ideal for equity investment." Douglas Godden, head of

the CBI's economic policy group, points out that both parties have similar macroeconomic policies anyway, given that they are both committed. in theory, to economic convergence with fellow European

The City is assuming a Labour victory and many com-mentators believe this eventuality is already priced into the market. But investors should still steel themselves for a lastminute election panic as a notoriously skittish City throws rational thinking to the wind.

Labour government may use tax policy to shift corporate activity away from dividend distribution towards investment. This may affect investors' income in the short term, but some commentators believe that long-term growth prospects

Bill Mott, head of UK Equities for Credit Suisse Asset Management, thinks a Labour government's emphasis on reestment and training would benefit companies that grow organically on the strength of the products they develop

For this reason, he likes biotechnology companies, such as British Biotech, and Celltech, over the long term. Notoriously volable and profitshy in the short term, they still offer excellent growth prospects. Using the same reasoning, he also likes pharmaceuticais, computer software, telecoms and technologydriven engineering companies.

He says: "I like companies which produce things that people need, rather than

things which people want."
He believes that the rationalisation, cost-cutting and drive for improved efficiency that has characterised much of the Conservative period in office, must give way to a sustained period of increased investment in research and development. The UK economy is crying out for a good dose of long-termism," he says.

There are some general trends likely to emerge in spite of the electoral uncertainty. Small to medium-sized companies traditionally outperform their bigger counterparts during economic recoveries. The latest NatWest Quarterly Survey shows small businesses reporting the best economic conditions for six years, with interest rates remaining manageable and sales picking up. Lewis McNaught, director of the UK retail division of

Gartmore, the fund manager owned by NatWest bank, says: "We love smaller companies at the moment, especially those which derive most of their earnings from the UK market rather than overseas. Service industries, such as Michael Page, the recruitment consultant, should continue to do well in 1997."

Vivian Bazalgette, managing director of M&G Investment Management, is also a smaller companies fan. He says: "The small to mediumsized companies are likely to outpace the FT-SE 100 this year for the first time since 1994. We are expecting 8 per cent dividend growth for the whole market in 1997, but 11 to

panies and 15 to 17 per cent for small companies."

Among big companies, the utilities still look good value. he believes, in spite of the threat of the windfall tax if Labour wins power. And diversified industrials, such as BTR, also look good value after a difficult period of adjustment in a low-growth

environment However, Mr Bazalgette's favourite sector is manufacturing, which should enjoy sustained growth on the back of the consumer recovery, provided sterling's strength does not lead to a flood of cheap imports. Paper, packaging and printing businesses in particular are overdue good times, with Rexam a favoured stock.

ver the long term, with both political parties acknowledging that more and more strain on the State, companies positioned to benefit from increased selfprovision, whether in ealthcare or pensions, should do well. Fund management groups and life insurance companies should therefore have a part to play in toves tors' portfolios. Food companies are widely

regarded as safe bolt-holes in times of political uncertainty, This fact alone should help to push up the price of their shares. Asda, of which Archie Norman is chairman, is a

popular stock in the sector. John Shelley, head of UK market leaders at Abtrust, the fund manager, expects 1997 to see an influx of foreign investment in the UK market. particularly from the US. The fact that Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, recently increased its investment weighting in European markets to 44 per cent seems to bear out his prediction:

He agrees with Mr Bazal-gette that medium-sized companies, with market capital-isations of between £300 million and £2 billion, should

outperform the big boys.

Abtrost favours "quality" retailers, such as Dixons. Next, and DFS Furniture, and "pure" heisure stocks, such as London Clubs, the casino operator, and Manchester United, the football club, in spite of its recent share price dip. Burford, the commercial property developer, and other property-related stocks should

do well, Mr Shelley believes, on the back of the recovery. Whether the surge in house prices will have a knock-on effect on the house-building and building-materials companies is uncertain, with some analysts dismissing growt

prospects as very short term. The wide range of opinious cited above may tempt hives tors to sit tight and think towards the long term. Think to call the market over the coming months could be riskier than playing Russian rotlette. Sometimes doing notiing can be the best ractic of all

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Parsons assumed the security

applied to his capital not just

He also accuses R J Temple

of Brighton, his financial ad-

viser, of mis-selling. After

meeting Mr Parsons, one of

its representatives advised

him in writing to buy the plan

because it was tax-efficient

and offered comparable sec-

urity to a building society account. R J Temple, which

was paid nearly £2,500 for the

sale, denies Mr Parsons was mis-sold the policy.

Sun Life refuses to compen-

sate Mr Parsons, saying it

would be unfair to other with-

profit holders. In total 18,000

the income.

Bonuses and performance of markets don't add up

Gavin Lumsden on the reason for

poor payouts from life companies

dering what the stock markets have to do for life companies to pay out decent bonuses on their with profit endowment 1996 was not a bad year for

equities, property or bonds, three sectors in which all withprofit funds invest. Broadly speaking most with-profit funds achieved a total pre-tax. return of 11 per cent from their investments. And yet the four companies which have declared so far — Commercial Union, Friends Provident General Accident and Norwich Union — are all paying top up bonuses well short of this. Sources within the industry blame the poor payouts on the prudence of actuaries who are attempting to claw back the

excessive bonuses of the 1980s. Norwich Union disappoint-ed its 2.1 million with-profit policyholders by keeping its bonuses for unitised contracts. at 6.5 per cent for savings and 7.5 per cent for pensions. Its rates for conventional policies stayed at a miserly 2.5 per cent for the sum assured and 4.5 per

cent for attaching bonuses. Commercial Union and Friends Provident paid slightly better. Ironically, General Acci-

market, but in bad you will get more.

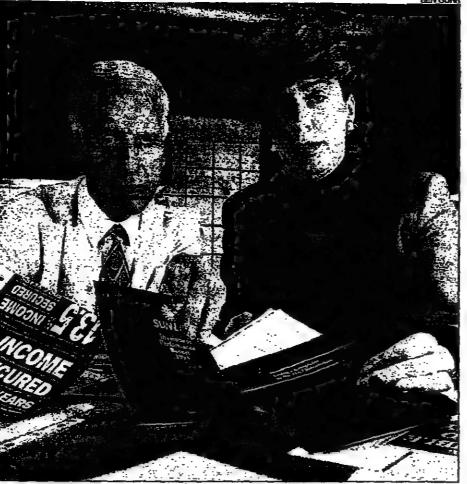
illions of with-profit last year's bonuses, remains-policyholders are the biggest payer. Unitised once again left won-hat the stock markets cent and unitised pensions received 8.5 per cent. But GA admits that it is paying 5 to 10 per cent more than the under lying performance of its investments would dictate.

Richard Harvey, Norwich Union's finance director, dismisses as "completely ludicrous" speculation that the company is fattening itself up ahead of flotation this year at the expense of with-profit holders. "No corporate arnt would be recommended by our independent. actuary or approved by the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) if it had any damaging effect on our with-profit holders, he says.

Mr Harvey denies the com-

pany is out of line with its competitors: "We are paying nearly £900 million in maturities. We are very careful to pay a fair amount in accordance with how the investments have done. The payout on our ten-year policies is almost identical with Friends Provident, within a few pounds."

Members of mutual insurer Scottish Amicable will doubtless be watching hawk-eyed how it sets its rates after its link-up this week with Swiss Re. It plans to demunualise this year and float in three to



Peter and Elizabeth Parsons. He claims he was misled and lost nearly £12,000

five years. However, it has promised to pay with profit holders a special bonus of around E/S million this year, followed by further benefits worth another £200 million when it lists on the Stock

Exchange (see page 39).

Holders of with-profit policies have every right to
accutinise the annual bonuses because, once announced, they become part of the guarante sum they will get at the end of the contract.

Bitter experience of falling rates this decade has taught many holders to be extra vigilant. Although the stock market has grown most years during the 1990s, low inflation and declining interest rates have contributed to a lowgrowth environment which

from investments compared to the boom time of the 1980s. Bonus rates have fallen from more than 10 per cent at the beginning of the decade, forcing endowment holders to increase their premiums if they want to pay off mortgages, or accept lower returns on their investment bonds.

Yet with yields from with-profit funds levelling at around 7.5 per cent life companies say cautious investors are piling back into with profits bonds in their anxiety to smooth what could be a rocky couple of years for stock

However, the controversy of falling rates refuses to go away for those investors who were sold high-income-yielding with-profit products in the

Midland switches to fee-free account

switch 4.5 million of Lits customers who hold an Orchard. Vector or Midland current account to a new account — the Midiand Bank Account.

The new corrent account bucks the recent trend of moving · towards · fee-based banking. It offers an arranged overdraft, which does not carry a fee. The interest on the overdraft is 13.3 per cent.

The other high street banks offer higher rates of interest on their accounts. For instance, Barciays customers will have to pay an annual interest of 18.8 per cent on an authorised overdraft plus a £5 per month NatWest customers, meanwhile, will have to pay interest of 18.9 per cent plus £9 per month.

Other facilities on the new account include a £50 buffer zone for customers who accidentally slip into the red.

Customers will not be charged an unauthorised borrowing fee of 24.6 per cent.

Customers who stay in credit will benefit from interest on their balance of 0.25 per cent. This compares with interest of between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent offered by other banks. This means that more than one million people will receive interest on their cur-

rent accounts for the first time. Midland claims that anyone with an authorised £250 overdraft with the bank for one week each month for a year will pay £7.25. This compares to £70 at Barclays, £106 at LLoyds and £118 at NatWest.

Last year Barclays launched its Additions bank account, which will charge customers a fee. At the time it was seen as the first step towards the end of free banking for those in

CAROLINE MERRELL

field Common in Berkshire, has lost nearly £12,000 of the £60,000 he put into Sun Life's 50 Plus Secure Income Plan after the with-profits part of the product completely failed to protect his capital. The plan was split 43.3 per cent into an annuity, designed

newsagent from Burgh-

to pay a guaranteed annual gross income of 13.5 per cent, and 55.6 per cent into Sun Life's with-profits bond which was supposed to grow to pay Mr Parsons back his £60,000 at the end of five years.

Unfortunately, Mr Parsons took out the plan in December 1991, just as Sun Life, along with the rest of the life industry, began to cut its bonus rates from their high of 9.5 per cent. The following May Sun Life withdrew the product as interest and annuity rates plummeted in the wake of the UK's exit from the

Although Sun Life paid Mr Parsons 50 monthly payments of £487 as it promised, the company shocked him last year when it told him the with-profits bond had accrued only £48,189.90, £11,810.30 less than he was expecting

Mr Parsons says Sun Life misled him because in an advertisement it described the plan as "the safe way to

20 per cent of their capital through the plan - compensating them all would proba-

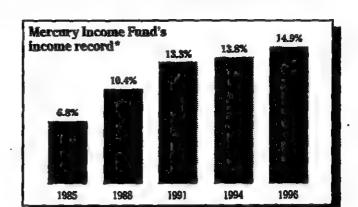
bly put it out of business. The company claims it was always clear that capital was never guaranteed. In addition, it says, it warned him every year that bonus rates were declining. It still believes Mr Parsons got a better deal than if he had put the money in a building society.

All this enrages Mr Par-sons: "I'm retired and I'm looking after my money. I'm not a clever sort of person, but I do know my figures and my percentages. When I got my first set of accounts in 1992 I saw that it was never going to make it in five years. I rang up to inquire but never got an answer. Then you think it will

mprove and make it up later.
If you get legitimately turned over you'd say fair enough - but when the market over the five years was very good it really makes you angry. Then they say I've done better than if I'd been in a building society. But I know I could have made £84,250 from deposit accounts, £6,000 more than I got in total from Sun Life — and I could have taken my money out."

Mr Parsons has now complained to the Personal Investment Authority Ombuds-

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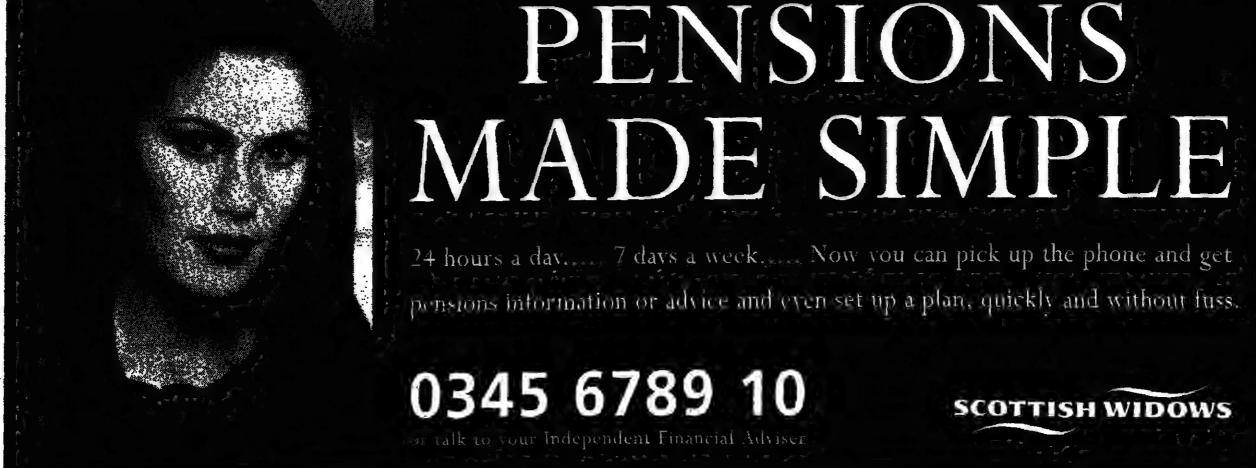
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WITH-PROFITS policies pay a guaranteed sum at the end of their term. This is also known as the sum insured and is augmented by two different kinds of bontases.

As their name suggests, annual (or reversionery) bonuses are announced every year. They are expressed as two percentages — one applying to the sum insured and the other to the bonuses already added in pravious years.

When the policy matures you are paid another bonus — the additional or terminal bonus. Basically, the life company adds up what it has promised you in the guaranteed benefit and annual bonuses and compares this with what the policy has actually earned. Any difference is the additional bonus, it books actually earned. Any difference is the additional bonus, it books actually earned. Any difference is the additional bonus, it books expressed as a percentage. Life companies constantly balance what they pay in annuteil and additional bonuses in an attempt to amount out meritet volatility. The idea is that in good years you will get less that the bad wou will get less that the bad way will not more.





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Sara McConnell and Caroline Merrell on the floats of the Halifax and Woolwich building societies

Savers who were included out



مُكذا من الأصل



Nigel Pitt received the Woolwich pack and was then told he was not entitled to vote

Gail Eiloart did not have the required £100 in her account on December 31, 1995

brought universal rejoicing.
After the announcement of the guaranteed. details, Weekend Money has been contacted by Woolwich savers who believed that they would qualify for free shares and have now been informed that they will be excluded.

The Woolwich has admined Invest a lump sum of £9,000 that some savers have received letters telling them they are not eligible for the basic now and you can be absolutely

payout of 450 shares, worth £844, when in fact they are eligible.
In its defence, the society said it had to send out papers before the end of last year so that they would be returned in time for its special meeting next month. As a result, some of the 55,000 people who changed their accounts in some way in the final weeks of last year may have been given

the wrong information. For example, many topped up their accounts to £100 to qualify for the bonus. Also possibly excluded in the original mailing were (2,000 savers who replenished their accounts at the last moment and whose cheques have just

Others who may have the wrong information about their shares are people who recently moved house and have their previous address on one account and a new address on another, and those who have two accounts with slightly different names.

in spite of an extensive deduplication exercise by the Woolwich. some members have slipped through the net. Nigel Pitt, a reader of The Times from London, is one of

Mr Pitt got his voting pack last month. He was, therefore. perplexed to receive a letter a week later saving that he was not entitled to vote - especially as he has been with the Woolwich for 44 years and

the confirmation of the SOCIETY Halifax and Woolwich share payouts has not

He said: "I called the sociery to be told that many people had been sent the wrong letter. But my name was not on that list. On investigation, it was found that another account in my name holding a nominal balance had not been matched by the computer. The reason being that one account showed my first name and initials, the other only my initial. All other details were identical."

it has also emerged that some of those who are both savers and borrowers with the Halifax, and thus stand to receive two sets of free shares. fear that they have not been included on the list of qualifying borrowers.

There is also the continuing distress of those who were long-term savers with both societies, but who failed to have the correct amount invested on the first qualifying date and are thus not entitled to vote or receive shares.

Gail Eiloart, a reader from Hertfordshire who has held a count since 1989, did not have the required £100 in her account on December 31. 1995, and is excluded, although her balance was above this amount before this date and subsequently.

The Woolwich Action Campaign, led by Paul Boddam-Whetham, a Woolwich investor, is fighting for the rights of these savers.

Do I qualify for a payout?

I have my mortgage with the Halifax bonus as well. He said: "I cannot believe it. I have been with the society for years, and just because I withdrew money for a for two sets of shares, a basic distribution, plus an additional variable distriin. To date, the society has confirmed my entitlement to the variable distribution but has said nothing about my entitlement as a borrower.

You should have received a letter from the Halifax in November 1996, setting out your savings account balance and confirming that you are a borrowing member. Borrowers receive only the basic distribution. In your voting pack, which you should receive by January 21, there should be a form asking you to vote on the conversion, both as an investing and borrowing member. If you have not received this form, ring 0800 527327.

Is it possible to be able to vote on the Woodwich conversion but not get shares?

David Lazard, a London reader, was puzzled to find that even though he did not have the requisite amount in his account at the end of 1995, he is entitled to vote on the proposed conversion. Initially he was told that he would qualify for the cash bonus, which would be a percentage of the balance, because he had less than £100 in his account at the end of 1995. He was not entitled to any shares. However, during last year, he topped up his account to more than £1,000. The fact that he had more than £100 in the account at the end of last year, means that he is entitled to vote, which disqualifies him from the cash few days over the Christmas period, I am entitled to nothing."

Halifax members who did not have £100 invested at the first qualifying date of November 25, 1994, but whose balances were above this level at December 3i, 1996, will also have the right to vote in the conversion poll, but will not receive the statutory cash bonus or the shares.

Why do savers under 18 not benefit from the share distributions?

Jean Woolley from Carshalton writes: "As a parent, I have always encouraged my this so-called windfall, when I will be receiving approximately E900 and they will receive 9.4 per cent of their balances?".

Under the terms of the Halifax conversion, those under 18 will be eligible for only the statutory cash bonus; which is also given to those savers with less than £100 invested at November 25, 1994.

Children are entitled to receive 9.4 per cent of their balance at December 31, 1996. The rules permitted them to increase their cash bonus after the first qualifying date of November 25, 1994, by allowing them to add a maximum of £1,000 to their

Children will be eligible only for the cash bonus because they are not entitled to vote. Other societies have been slightly more generous. The Alliance & Leicester will be giving bonuses of 11 per cent of belances to those under 18. The Woolwich will give 10 per cent. Both have followed the example of the Halifax in allowing accounts to be topped up by a maximum of £1,000 by October 14, 1996, in the case of the Alliance & Leicester, and by December 31, 1996, at the Woolwich.

I have a number of accounts with the Woolwich and will qualify for the variable distribution as a saver of more than two years' standing with more than £1,000 in my accounts. But the balance of some of my accounts have dropped since December 31, 1995. Should I top up these accounts by February II. 1997?

The important thing is that the total balance of all your accounts must be at least as much on February II as it was on December 31 for you to get the maximum payout to which you are entitled.

The staff at my local branch of the Woolwich told me that I had to have lead £100 in my account for the 12 months before December 31, 1995, as well as on December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996, to qualify for the basic payout, Is

No. The two qualifying dates for the basic payout are December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996. On each of these dates you must have had at least £100 in your account to qualify for the basic payout of 450 shares. You were allowed to let the level of your balance drop between these two dates as long as you topped it up. You did not need to have an account at all before December 31, 1995.

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Assets trap primed for personal pensioners

duce everyone to the same ignominious lev el However, a recent High-Court roling has shown that not ali bankrupts are equal. Those with personal pension. plans may not be able to start afresh once discharged from mons, the City legal firm, ex-bankruptcy since they may be plained: "The Landau case, permanently deprived of their pensions. Those former bankpensions. Those former bank-cleared away the confusion rupts who are members of that had previously existed as company schemes will not to whether a trustee in bank-

involving Ivan Landau, a for He continued: "The court mer solicitor, could have improved that rights to personal plications for those attempting pension plan benefits passed to recover pension assets from into the control of the trustee bankrupts. Roger Levitt, the land remained under his condisgraced founder of the Levitt will after the bankrupt is investment group and a dis- discharged, generally within charged bankrupt, can expect. to receive £100,000 a year from his £1 million pension plans. : said, when the pension came

Anne Ashworth on a ruling showing that not every bankrupt is equal

when it comes to pension benefits

Take, for instance, an electri-

cian who is made bankrupt at

40. If he's discharged three years later without having

cleared his debts, the trustee in

bankruptcy can keep his per-

sonal pension and use it to pay

off more of the bankrupt's

debts when the pension comes

into payment, even if that's ten

protected from such dangers.

The new Pensions Act, which

comes into force in April,

specifically excludes occupa-tional pensions from passing

or twenty years later." Members of occupational pension schemes are largely

which was heard late last year, suffer this fate as their pension ruptcy can lay his hands on should be safeguarded. cash in pension funds to settle. The outcome of the case a bankrupt's debts.

three years."
As a result, Mr Greenstreet

Ian Greenstreet, a pensions to be paid, the lump sum plus lawyer at Simmons & Sim-the pension payments could be

although the trustee may be able to obtain a court order claiming any pension pay-ments made before the bankrupt is discharged. There are currently no equivalent provisions for personal pension used by the trustee to settle any unpaid debts. He went on: Mr Greenstreet pointed out

the illogicality of the difference in treatment between those in company schemes and those in personal pensions. He commented: "While it is arguable that pension benefits should be treated just like any other asset and be available to repay the bankrupt's debts, it does seem unfair and inconsistent that personal pension holders are treated differently from those in occupational schemes. There are many people who will not have had any choice over their pension provision, such as the self-employed. Undoubtedly many of them will be shocked when they



Roger Levitt, a discharged bankrupt who can expect to receive £100,000 a year from his £1 million pension plans

ScotAm's two steps to flotation

ore than one million pelicy-holders with Scottish Amicable will receive bonuses worth up policyholders will receive a bonus as little to £3,000 after the manuals anatomice. St. £75, and all may question why the ment of plans to demuntalise and float singlety has no plans to give them free within three to five years.

In the first step of a two stage to turing plan. ScotAm will shed its minual meeting scheduled for March, It will pay

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flotation worth at least £300 million.

New with profit policies taken out after.

December 31, 1996, and before the date of a special general meeting in March will qualify, but only for the bonuses at floration, and not at demutualisation. The demutualisation payout will be in the form of a bossus paid into the policy, not cash. The flotation payout has not been decided yet, but could be in the form of a

policy borros or shares.

A policy taken out, for example, in 1972

on a sum assured of £30,000 could qualify for more than £1.500. However, newer

Southm is currently the sixth largest status on May I, after a special general and sells life, protection, pensions, savings and investment products, primarily its membership an initial special bonds of through independent unaucual action its membership an initial special bonds of through independent unaucual action its membership an initial special bonds of the special bonds floation worth at least £200 million that the proper intending to buy policies floation worth at least £200 million inst policies in the special bonds are likely to the special bonds are igh independent financial advisers. not welcome. However, those people who buy a new policy between now and March would reap the benefit of any second stage

would reap me benefit to any second-hand payors and anyone buying a second-hand policy, known as a traded endowment bolicy, will qualify for both bonuses.

Similar with building society demunicalistics. ations, ScotAm members will not be able to gain access to their bonus until their policy matures. For some, this date will be more

than 20 years away, even though their bonus will be credited in May. Holders of non-profit policies will not qualify.

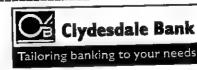
Paul Bradshaw, deputy managing direc-tor, said that he expected the company to be worth £1 billion when it was floated and said that the restructuring would release idden value worth at least £200 million. However, analysts suggested that the Stirling-based mutual was such an attractive target to predators that it would be approached by banks and building societies leaking to approached by banks and building societies leaking to approach the leaking the leaking to approach the leaking to approach the leaking ies looking to expand their life business. A successful bid would affect the size of the

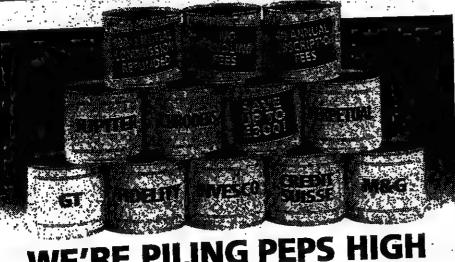
second borrus earmarked for policyholders. Norwich Union plans to demutualise in June and give members an average £800 worth of shares. It has slightly less spare cash than ScotAm. Its free-asset ratio, the surplus after financial liabilities have been met, was 11.5 per cent at the end of 1995, compared with ScotAm's 16.5 per cent.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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Funding switch clouds early retirement hopes

Caroline Merrell says teachers

are up in arms over the decision

of Head Teachers is planning to march on Parliament next week to protest over changes to the teachers' pension scheme; which will make it far less attractive

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At the end of last year, the Government announced that the costs of retiring teachers early should be borne by the local education authority, rather than by the pension scheme itself. The LEAs, many of which are short of cash, are far less likely to allow teachers to retire on the generous terms they previously enjoyed.

The Government estimates that 26,000 teachers will rush to take early retirement ahead of April, before they lose the privilege. The cost to the teachers' pension scheme, which is mainly funded by the taxpayer, is estimated to be around £37,000 per person a total cost of E962 million. Last year, the cost to the pension scheme of the 13,000 teachers who took early retirement was £468 million. For example, a teacher who retires at 50 will get the same benefits as someone who had worked for another six years. The teachers' pension scheme is

to change pension arrangements also index-linked — another big perk of the job. The

generous terms were offered to try to change the age profile of the UK's 500,000 teachers over two thirds are over 40. Understandably, when the change was announced, thousands of teachers telephoned their union to find out what they should do. Many are now in the process of applying for early retirement, while those who have agreed to take early retirement at the end of this academic year are bringing forward their retirement to

ensure that they do not lose out on up-rated benefits. One of the main teaching unions, the ATL, has launched a legal challenge to the Govemment's attempts to prevent a flood of teachers from taking early retirement. It claims that a recent letter from the Department for Education and Employment to the LEAs, stipulating the conditions for

early retirement, is illegal, as it

is up to the individual boards of governors to decide which

teachers to allow to retire. On the other hand, financial advisers who specialise in offering advice to teachers believe that rushing to take early retirement may not be in the teachers' best interests.

Frizzell, the independent financial that teachers should try to get advice before rushing in to early retirement. He said: "li you opt for early retirement. check thoroughly the details of your pension benefits. This is the basis of any financial

decisions to be made." He said it could be in the interests of particular teachers to stay in employment - while earning, teachers could boost their pension benefits by taking out additional voluntary contributory: plans. AVC plans, which can be used to boost benefits, can be taken

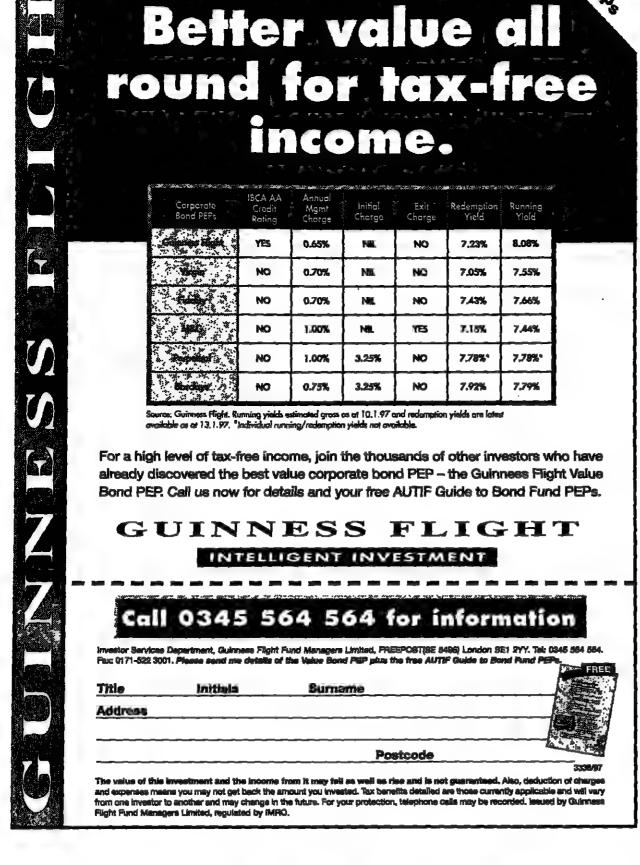
pension, or employees can try to boost their pension with an AVC plan taken out with any provider.

Mr Ingledew said: "Compare the benefits against those you would have received if you retired at 60." He also points out that some LEAs have agreed to honour the existing arrangement for early retire ment. He also reminds teachers to check out any state benefits they might be eligible for when they retire. State pensions only begin being paid at the usual retirement ages — 60 for women and 65

Mr Ingledew suggests that teachers should compare their income and outgoings in retirement against their estimate ed position if they opted for early retirement.

He said: The comparative position may not be so bad because even though your pension will be less than your salary, your outgoings may also be lower."

Those who retire give up their rights to death-in-service benefits, equivalent to lour times salary. He said: There may be some need to replace this benefit.



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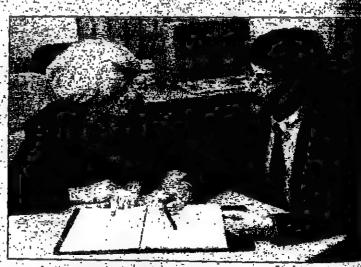


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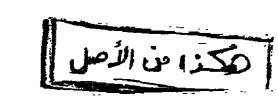


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| Job Title | week? 3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? |
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CHANGING TIMES



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When a statement is not a statement

From the Rev W. R. Blow Sir, I received a disturbing document in the post recently that purported to be a Masterloan Statement. The statement, headed "Below is your account status with Masterloan*, shows me to be in debt to the extent of 58,728.80 to it for an alleged 15,000 loan. This, however, is totally untrue. I owe nothing: I have never applied for, nor received, a cash loan from Barclaycard/Barclayloan.

I consider it very threatening and uniterving to receive fictitious claims of indebtedness of this sort. Such a "statement" must be even more frightening to those (perhaps elderly) who are not so certain in their minds of their financial position.

I should state that I do hold a Barclaycard, which I use, Normally, the whole outstanding amount is paid off each

Towards the bottom of the so-called "statement" there is a note: "This is not a bill. Send no money now. This, while being temporarily reassuring.

tends to imply that money will have to be paid in the future, and that the addressee is committed to taking a loan. Without a phrase such as "Until you request a loan you are under no obligation to Barclayloan", the whole exercise looks like a very umpleasant attempt to intimidate and demand money from those who are not very certain about

trading on to private individ-uals. If the markets do very well over the next five years,

the institutions will do very

nicely, thank you, but if they

falter badly, there may not be

Garrard Gardens.

and read the .-

Small print dear

Yours faithfully, their financial matters. RALPH BLOW, Perhaps Barclaycard/Bar-clayloan has legally covered 46 Crofton Road, Nottingham.

Tax returns From Mr C. Timms

Sir. With reference to Susan Singleton's letter (January 11) on the subject of self-assessment, although the principle that taxpayers will not need to calculate their own tax bills following timeous submission of their returns is appreciated, achieving this result by way of assistance from the Inland Revenue is not always to be recommended as, in my experience as a practising accountant, HM Inspector of Taxes does not usually get it right first time, often resulting in tax liabilities being overstated.

Although requesting the as-sistance of professionals is not essential and remains a matter of personal choice, individuals who engage the services of a qualified accountant can rest assured that they pay the correct amount of tax and not a penny more than is properly due. Furthermore, receipt of independent professional advice can often result in the reduction of taxes due. Yours faithfully.

CHRISTOPHER TIMMS, Easterbrook, Eaton & Co, Sidmouth, Devon.

Who takes the risk in derivative trading? -

From Mr Bruce T. Brown
Sir, May I be among the first to compliment your editorial team on its reports (January ll) on the Abbey National equity-linked Tessa and high income bonds.

I repeatedly ask: "Why the sudden rash of derivativebased equity-linked savings and investment products?" My cynicism tells me that

pass the "risk" of derivatives

much profit. This will not matter because the institutions will not have used their own BRUCE BROWN, they provide a clever mecha-10 Trent Court, nism for the institutions to

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and

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The Woolwich float and disqualified investors

From Mr Paul N.

confuse

Boddam-Whetham Sir, Having read details of the proposed transfer arrange-ments of the Woolwich Building Society to Woolwich plc, and as a "disqualified" investor having received the notice about the statutory cash bonus, I have written to John Stewart, chief executive, to highlight the following points:

itself by adding at the bottom

of the "statement" that it is not

a bill. However, I cannot

possibly see any innocent in-tent in issuing a document

which begins by stating "This is your account status" and ends by saying "This is not a

bill send no money now". The

aim of this can only be to

 There is an undisclosed number of long-term investors who regrettably had allowed their accounts to drop below E100 at the first reference date of December 31, 1995. 2. A survey of more than 40

such investors revealed that their average time with the society exceeded 12 years. 3. If all "disqualified" investors were to be included in the allocation of shares, the average cash equivalent bonus would be reduced only by £19. from £1,252 to £1,233, assuming a pessimistic estimate of 40,000 "disqualified" inves-tors. Fewer "disqualified" members mean the reduction

would be even less. 4. Members should be given the opportunity at the special meeting on February 11 to resolve that members with less than £100 in a qualifying investment account at December 31, 1995, but who have held such accounts for more than two

basic distribution of shares. 5. "Disqualified" members who have kept up their accounts to £100 at December 1996 are eligible to vote, but are neither to receive shares nor the statutory cash bonus. They thus lose out twice (even though the statutory cash bonus is likely to be less than £10).

6. The Woolwich is lobbying to

amend sections of the Building Societies Bill, asserting that if it had known of certain measures, it would have taken alternative action. If long-term members had known of the rules about the qualifying criteria, they too would have taken alternative action. They too are lobbying for a change to the rules.

7. The society is being inconsistent in its recent reminders for investors to top up accounts to the £100 level, without being prepared to treat with fairness those "disquali-fied" long-term investors whose balances had temporar-

The Woolwich Action Camaign is seeking fair treatment for loyal Woolwich members by highlighting these anomalies and contradictions in the actions of the society. Yours'sincerely.

BODDAM-WHETHAM, Highwray.

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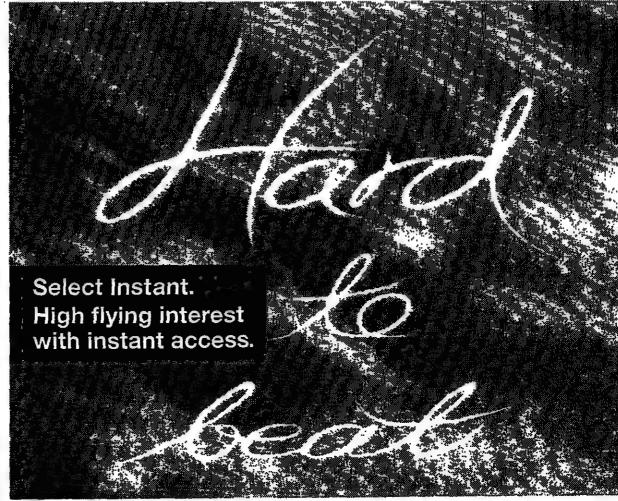
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42 WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to plan an active retirement

THE Good Non-Retirement new Guide strips away the mys-tique of financial planning and suggests ways to ensure greater security for yourself in retirement. Topics covered include pensions, tax, invest-ment, starting your own business, and voluntary work. It also explains the range of benefits to which you are entitled and how to find the right financal adviser. The guide, written by Rosemary Brown, is published next Thursday, priced £14.99.

■ Birmingham Midshires **Building Society has increased** savings rates by an average of 0.34 per cent. Young savers with balances of more than £25 in the society's children's account, Smartstart, will benefit the most with a return of 5.80 per cent, a rise of 0.80 per cent. The Quantum High In-terest 60-day-notice account rates increase by up to 0.25 per cent (annual) and 0.24 per cent (monthly). The minimum opening balance on the Quantum High Interest account has risen sharply to £5,000 from E1,000 and First Class Instant Access to £10,000 from £1,000.

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scheme in conjunction with Kent Reliance Building Society that will help elderly homeowners to increase their income. Mortgage funds on an "interest only" basis will be made available by Kent Reli-ance. The interest rate on the loan is fixed for life at 9 per cent per annum. The plan is open to homeowners aged 69 have a minimum joint age of 145 years. A free leaflet is available from Hinton & Wild Limited, 374/378 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7BB.

The fifteenth edition of Chase de Vere's Pepguide looks into the second decade of personal equity plan (Pep) investing. The guide includes a full analysis of most of the Peps currently on the market plus a detailed comparison of the features of each individual Pep. The price of the guide is £12.95, which includes the updated July Performance Charts that will be mailed to subscribers on publication. Chase de Vere will refund the purchase price of the Pepguide to any investor taking out a Pep through them. Call 0800 526 092 for a copy.

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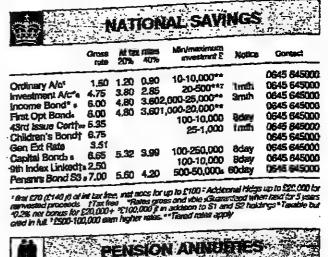
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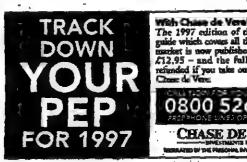
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| Chorley & District 01257 279373 | 0.50 | 260-120K | 80 | E months |
| Microstield 01246 202055 | 0.64 | [75-125k | 90 | 6.35% doc-6 mth 2%-6mth, 1%-1yr |
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| All figures are the courchase), guaranteed | ross an 5 years | nual ann s, paid m | ruity (£100 ronthly in i | iqasuca '000 |
| SINGLE LIFE (level arm) | Male: | Age 60 | Age 6% | Age 70 |
| Canada Lie Level Sun Lif of Can Level Prudential Level Standard Li Level Equitable Li Level | | £ 9,901 £ 9,881 £ 9,880 £ 9,776 £ 9,905 | £10,976 £10,920 £10,889 £10,844 £10,824 | £12,444 £12,340 £12,295 £12,248 £12,027 |
| SINGLE UFE | Famale | Age 60 | Age 65 | Age 70 |
| Canada LifeLevel PrudentialLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel Gen AccidentLevel Equitable LfLevel | | 29,207 29,204 29,142 28,907 £8,971 | £ 9,956 £ 9,956 £ 9,880 £ 9,691 £ 9,658 | 211,188 211,058 210,988 210,837 210,617 |
| JOENT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity) | Male: Female: | Age 60 Age 55 | Age 65 Age 60 | Age 65 |
| Canada Life Level Prudential Level Sun Lf of Can Level Equitable Lf Level Gen Accident Level | | 28,795 28,768 28,768 28,660 28,517 | 29,398 29,357 59,340 29,186 29,129 | £10,270 £10,184 £10,157 £ 9,908 £ 9,896 |
| Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9 | 363 | | | |
| Compile | d by: L | izanne A | 0\$8 | : ' |

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| Lender | Interest | Loan size | Max % | Notas |
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| Coventry 0800 126125 | 5,11 | to £125k | 95 | 2,14% discount for 12 months |
| Lambeth 0171 928 133 | 3,59 | £15-150k | 95 | 3.25% discount for 12 months |
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| TS8 Bank 0500 758000 | 3.51 | £15k+ | 95 | 3.74% discount for 1 year |



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Our Economics Editor on a popular government security

Safety through the ages

ilts are securities issued by the Government when it needs to borrow money. Short for "giltedged securities, they were so named in the 19th century because they were regarded as the safest form of investment. In hald terms, the gilt investor lends the

Government money in return for interest. This is by far the most important way the Government linances its deficits. By the 1990s, over £150 billion of gilts were in issue, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the outstanding national debt.

History lesson. The national debt came into being in 1694 when William HI had to raise £1.2 million to finance war with France. The financiers who raised the money were given a charter to form a bank. It became the Bank of England.

What a gift gives you. You get a certificate that entitles you to a fixed flow of interest income over a fixed period, at the end of which you get a fixed capital repayment. Each gilt has its own name; which gives you much of the information you need. Take, as an example, £1,000 nominal of 812 per cent Treasury Loan 2007. The £1,000 nominal is the amount of a gdt. This is the capital repayment you receive when it matures. The 8½ per cent is the coupon or rate of interest the Government will pay. The 2007 is the maturity date when the Government repays the capital.

Treasury loan is simply the name given to a particular gilt. Others are called Exchequer Loan, War Loan or Consolidated Stock. Professional traders in the gilt market sometimes give gilts nick-names. Two issues of gilts maturing in the year 2000 were called Grecians after Grecian 2000, the famous haircare product. The 13 per cent 2000 issue was the Big. Greek, the 9 per cent 2000 issue the Baby Greek. One index-linked gilt, issued just before one of the elections of Margaret Thatcher's reign and convertible into a called a Maggie May.

Conventional versus index-linked. The conventional gilt was described above. An index-linked gilt differs in that both the interest payments throughout the life of the stock and the amount payable when it matures are adjusted in line with: the British inflation rate. Index-linked. Geoffrey Howe's 1981 Budget speech. To start with, they were restricted to instituthors such as pension funds, that in 1982. Instrum holding the gilt until maturity, they were made available to everyone a will what moves silt prices? Two big Prices and yields. The price of a gilt as influences on a gilt price are the likely



Messengers sprint from the Bank of England with news of a rate change

one and how much you would get if you sold the stock rather than wait for the capital repayment on maturity. The best way to track gilt prices is in newspaper listings. A price of £9916 — rather anachronistically, gilts are still priced in thirty-seconds — means that, for every £100 nominal of stock, the price in the market is £99d to or £99.3lp.

The yield is the way you measure the return on your investment. It differs from the coupon because it is an interest rate based on the actual price of the stock, not the nominal amount. One of the most confusing features of the gilt market is that, when prices rise, yields fall, and vice versa. Take an 812 per cent stock whose price is quoted at E99*16. That means that you only have to pay E99.31p to get the 812 per cent interest and a £100 capital repayment. In this case, the yield is 8.56 per cent. Separately, the newspapers quote redemption yields. This is the total return from buying a gilt, including the flow of interest and the capital gain or loss from holding the gilt until maturity.

prospects for inflation. A coupon fixed at 10 per cent may look stingy when bank interest rates are at 15 per cent, but generous when bank rates are down at 6 per cent. The behaviour of inflation is important because higher prices would eat into your return on a security that offers a fixed interest rate.

■ How to buy and sell gilts. There are two main methods. You can buy direct from the Bank of England when new stock is issued, generally through a gilt auction. Or you can buy from the market through your bank or stockbroker or the National Savings Stock Register.

Further information. For general advice and a leaflet Investing in Gilts: A guide for the small investor contact the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street. Landon ECZR SAH; tel 0171-601 4540. For buying gilts through the NSSR contact the Department for National Savings, Biackpool FY3 9YP; tel 01253 697333. For a list of stockbrokers, contact the London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP; tel 0171-797 1000.

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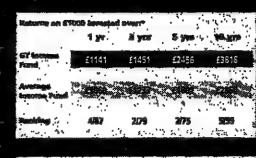
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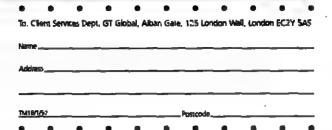
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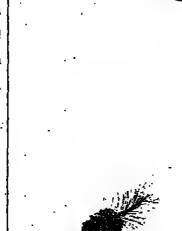
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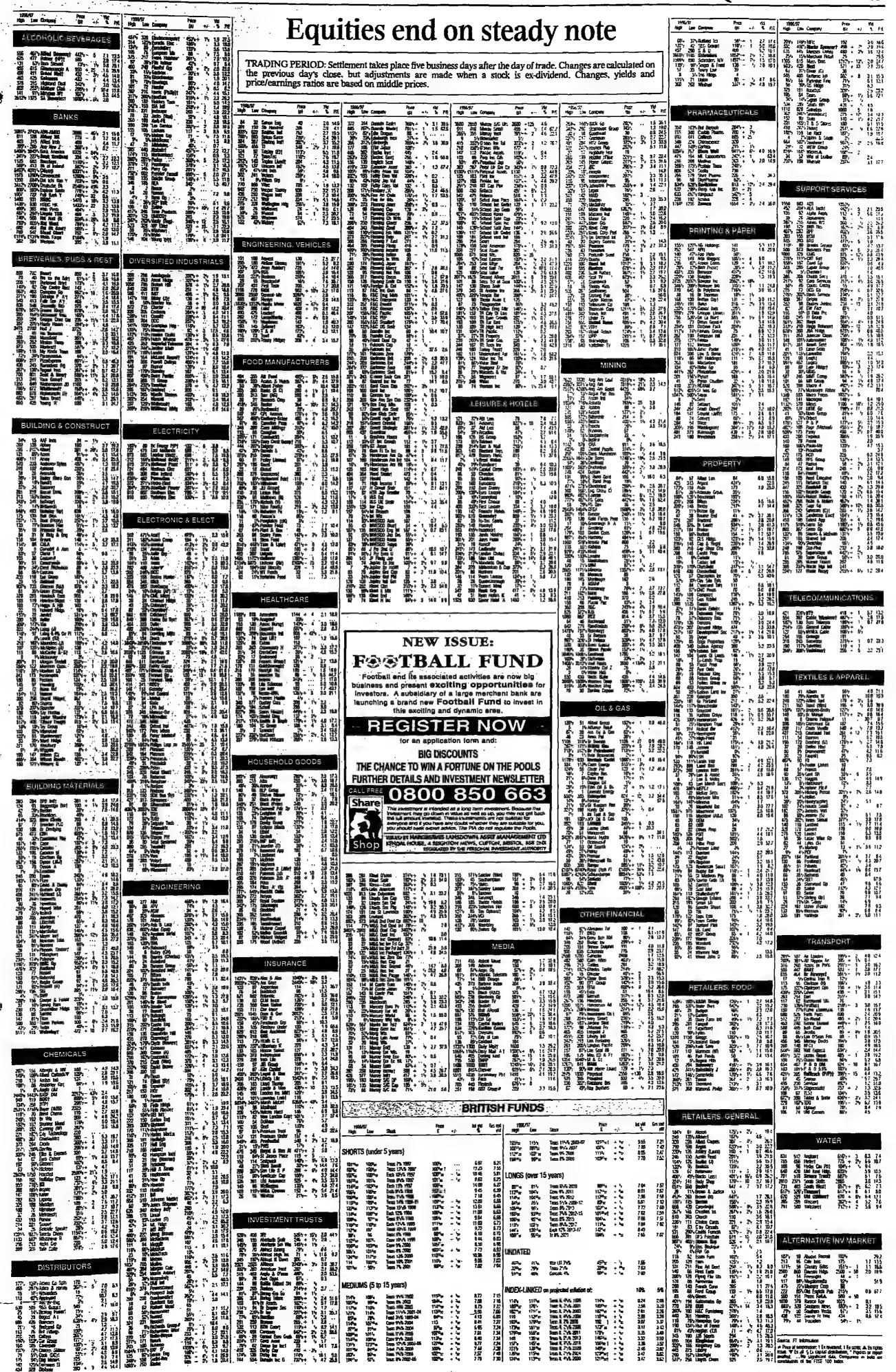
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Losing run casts shadow over coach's arrival while Scotland seek to reinforce home rule

Ashton driven by need to change luck of the Irish

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

BRIAN ASHTON may possess the look of a leprechaun. but it may be too much to ask the former Bath coach to conjure some of the magical properties attributed to Ireland's mythical little men. In any event, Ireland felt sufficiently confident in their preparations for the rugby union five nations' championship match with France at Lansdowne Road today to cancel their light training yes-terday and opt instead for

That was in marked contrast to their opponents, who travelled from Paris after los-ing the services of Richard Dourthe. The Dax centre was knocked out during training on Thursday and his place goes to Stephane Glas, which could act in France's favour. Glas is a talented performer and less prone than Dourthe to fits of temperament that have cost penalties in the past and, after the meeting with England last year, led to a suspension for kicking Ben Clarke.

However, Dourthe is also the team's goalkicker; and he scored four out of five attempts against South Africa last month in a team that also

IRELAND

C M P O'Shea (London Irish)

J A Topping (Ballymana)

J C Bell (Northampton)

M J Field (Malone)

D J Crotty (Garryowen

E P Elwood (Lansdowne)

K G M Wood (Harlequins)

P S Wallace (Saracens)

D S Corkery (Bristol)

P S Johns (Saracens)

N A Hogan (Terenure College)

maison, the long-range kick-ing exponent. Those duties will now be shared between Thomas Castaignède and Alain Penaud, both of them accomplished marksmen on their day yet both returning to the international arena after a period of absence.

Yet it is not in the area of goalkicking, significant though that is, that Ireland



CHAMPIONSHIP

may struggle in the match. sponsored by Irish Perma-nent. After all, they have Eric Elwood in their ranks and he has scored 135 points in his 16 internationals. It is in the matter of tries that Ireland stand deficient. They may argue that France have lared little better at try-scoring this season - four against Wales

FRANCE

15 J-L Sadourny (Colombers)

E Ntamack (Toulouse)

F Tournaire (Narbonne

O Media (Montferrand)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 L Leitemend (Bourgoin), 17 C Lamaison (Brive), 18 P Carbonnesu (Brive), 19

A Benazzi (Agen)*

H Miorin (Toulouse)

P Benetton (Agent)

F Pelous (Dax)

S Glas (Bourgoin)

in September were followed by none in two games against South Africa - but their opponents' potential remains Pierre Villepreux, newly in

stalled as the assistant coach. has emphasised all week the need to keep the ball in hand and it is impossible to believe that their midfield cannot create enough opportunities out of the damp Dublin air to give them their thirteenth successive win against Ire-land. Unless, of course, Ashton has distilled sufficient drive into the Ireland forwards to deny France the opportunities they seek.
"I have tried to build the

confidence of the players, after the poor results of the previous three games, and provide a framework of the game with which they feel comfortable," Ashton, who only joined his charges in Limerick last week-

"The quality of the set-piece game has to be paramount but there are forwards who can run, handle and cause the opponent problems," Ashton

The framework must give the players options and I have tried to get over the message of personal responsibility on the field, not just relying on one or two players to dictate the course of the game. It's a simple formula but it does allow flexibility and it is designed specifically to play against France.

There are certain things one can expect the French to do well but, though they have all-round strength, they will only do some of those things well if we let them.

squad has been upbeat and positive this week. This is about Ireland, not about been there before and know what they have to do.

misgivings, then they are hiding them well. I have found them very supportive and enthusiastic, they have worked hard and I hope we have established a positive re-

"It's taken them 34 days to get to where I wanted them to be and at times I thought we weren't going to make it - but the proof of the pudding will

Under the coaching of Murray Kidd, Ireland lived in the shadow of defeat, though many will feel that was more the fault of the playing struc-ture than of Kidd, the New Zealander who was dismissed in the wake of the defeat by

pean club competition suggests that they remain as competitive as ever but now the national strings must be drawn tighter together.

WALES

FRANCE

11/2

4/1

4/1

.5/1

.6/1

12/1

.25/1



Ellis, Scotland's new hooker, the first player from Currie to be capped, practises his lineout throwing

Wales attempting to turn back powerful tide of recent history

BY GERALD DAVIES

AMID so much that is changing in rugby union, certain of its old virtues thankfully remain the same. The five nations' championship, so re-cently threatened with dismantlement, begins for Scot-land and Wales in Edinburgh this afternoon and those who govern the future of the sport. and who very nearly tore the championship apart, need to take heed of the people, who are voting with their leet.

It is not hard to believe from the way Princes Street is ablaze with red and white that there are more Weish Dec willing to part with their savings for the trip northwards than were willing to take the much shorter journey to Cardiff last weekend to se their team play the United

In contrast to the 13,500 who were at the Arms Park, it is believed that between 15,000 and 20,000 have arrived by air, road and rail in Scotland over the past few days, and the mobile phones have been busily engaged by those searching for the spare tickets. The attraction of rugby's traditional deep mid-winter fayre endures.

made that the standard of play in the northern hemisphere tournament cannot hold a candle to that achieved by those countries south of the equator. Evidence of this was provided by Australia's wins over Scotland and Wales and Wales's additional loss to South Africa last month. To demean the competition

BADMINTON

TELFORD: General Accident under 21 team challenge: Dermark 5 England 2;

TELFORD: Gement Accident under-21 teams challenger Dervrerk 5 England 2 Dermark 3 Swetten 2 TOKYO: Japan Operc Marc Third round: A Wiserale (Inde) bit H Berglaton (Swet) 8-15, 15-9, 15-2 A Russuma (Inde) bit T Suer-Laurdsen (Dert 15-13, 17-18, 15-12; Juan Digi (Holf) bit H Sorensen (Den) 15-10, 9-15. 15-8; P Basmussen (Den) bit Liu Yzeng (Orna) 15-10, 15-3; I Wijaye (Inde) bit Chen Gang (China) 15-9, 15-5; Park Sung-Woo (SKor) bit P E Hoyer-Lausen (Den) 8-15, 15-7; 15-8; B Santoso (Inde) bit K Junassen (Den) 12-15, 15-2; 15-6; P G Chrisensen (Den) bit R Sidek (Malaysle) 18-15. 15-4 Charatri-finate: Warmaria bit Kusumas 15-5, 15-7; Restrussen bit Van Digit 15-8, 15-12; Park bit Wijaya 15-11, 15-6; Omstansen bit Santoso 9-15, 15-10, 15-8; Women: Second round: M Audina (Inde) bit M Ancherektyey (Seo) 10-12, 11-7, 11-2; Zhang Wing (China) bit K Korrum (Japan) 11-4, 11-2; Park (Jung-Min (Si Kori bit C Heid (Cen) 11-7, 11-4; C Marin (Den) bit H Mazu (Lapan) 11-3, 11-7; Theid rounds Audina bit Zhang 10-12, 12-10, 11-5; Ye bit Re 12-11, 11-8; Marin bit Lee 11-4, 11-3; Gong bit North

BASKETBALL

that begins today in the light of these failures is hardly a point worth making to the participants and the many millions who will be enthralled by the events of the next ten weeks. Take them for what they are: moments of happy, sporting celebration. Over the years in this fixture Scotland and Wales have offered examples of the best that rugby can supply. It is hard to recall an indifferent match.

Of late, Scotland have had much the better record. They have won five of the past seven fixtures and if they succeed today will emulate what they 1991, when they won on three successive occasions. Wales have to look back to 1983 for their Murrayfield victory.

"Some of our best rugby," Gavin Hastings wrote in his newspaper column, "has been against the Taffs. Matches between the two sides have produced some fantastic tries." Scotland have scored 19 against 12 in the last ten games. If Hastings can recall the try Eric Peters scored two years ago, which Hastings had initiated in his own half, then Wales will recall fondly

Robert Jones's try in the early. minutes of the same match. Uncertainty hangs over the quality of both teams. Before. their recent stuttering victory over Italy, Scotland had refeats - against England, New Zealand, twice, and Australia while Wales can only show three successes in 11 outines

last 12 months. The difference lies in that

Scotland invariably pull out all the stops in the five nations' while Wales, on the other hand, rarely fulfil their potential. Having entered the last two championships with little hope, Scotland ended up competing for the grand slam. "Scotland have an enviable

ability," Terry Cobner, the Wales director of rugby, says to play to their maximum capacity. The performance of the team is greater than the sum of the individual parts."

Some of those parts have tanged since the Italy game. In addition to the late inclusion of Graham Ellis as hooker for the injured Kevin McKenzie, there are four other changes. Two of these can certainly be said to strengthen the team. Rob Wainwright returns as No 8 and captain, while Gary Armstrong resumes at scrum half instead of Bryan Redpath. The latter adds recognisable strength to a familiar and experienced back division.

Wales keep faith with the team that was originally chosen to play the US Eagles. Having missed that match, Jonathan Humphreys regains his place at hooker and captain and Neil Jenkins returns to the unfamiliarity of the full back position.

Wales are perceived to hold the key to the tight phases, but the question is whether they will be swift enough thereafter to match Scotland for pace in the loose, where the home team always seem to thrive on Murrayfield's firm surface.

MOTOR RALLYING

SKIING

Leicester keen to take their lead from . Stransky

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DOMESTIC arguments this weekend in England - where foreign imports have forced down the number of Englishborn players in the Courage Clubs Championship first di vision by a fifth since last season - retain a cosmopolitan flavour. Joel Stransky, the former South Africa stand-off half, makes his home debut

for Leicester, in place of Rob Liley, against Bristol today, Stransky's arrival at Wel-ford Road leaves just four English players in the regular No 10 position among the 12 first division sides. Lack of alternatives is a problem, but the concerns of the England team management are not those of Leicester as they set about regaining the lead, on points difference, from an mactive Wasps side.

Leicester also give a full league debut to Perry Fresbwater, a former New Zealand Colt, who takes over from Graham Rowntree in the front row. Rowntree has a call injury, but Nell Back, his England colleague, has recovered from a hand injury. Rory Underwood is on the right wing for only the third time on his 228th Leicester appear-ance, with Leon Lloyd preferred on the left.

Should Bristol lose, they would equal their worst run of seven league defeats and deep-en their plight at the foot of the table. Paul Burke and David Corkery are on Ireland duty and while Simon Shaw's back problem has cleared up, their main hope must be that Leicester will have their minds on the Heineken Cup final against Brive, the French club, next Saturday.

Leicester's probable retrieval of the lead might last just 24 hours. Harlequins, gathering momentum once more, will resume the front-running tomorrow if they can end Saracens unbeaten record at Enfield. Paddy Johns and Richard Wallace, who represented Ireland A yesterday, are due back from Dublin to

play for Saracens.

Even if they appear to be out of the title race, Bath and Andy Robinson, their new coach, who takes his place in a a win at the Recreation Ground tomorrow.

Northampton inflicted one of the holders' four defeats, but are without four players on five nations' duty and have additional problems up front, with Gavin Walsh injured and Tim Rodber and Man Volland having late checks.

If rumour about two, rather than four sides, going down to the second division becomes fact, West Hartlepool have everything to play for today at Gloucester, However, Orrell appear to be condemned and, in a dress-rehearsal for their Pilkington Cup meeting next Saturday, they entertain Sale, whose main danger is from not having played for four weeks.

Martin Bayfield, the England and British Isles lock forward, begins his comeback today from a ten-month lay-off with a chronic pelvic injury, in a second XV game for Northampton at home to Bath United.

Preservation order

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

THE future of British Isles tours to the southern hemisphere has been confirmed by the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), whose annual meeting ended in Dublin yesterday (David Hands writes). There is, though, a strong likelihood of an end to separate tours of

New Zealand and Australia. The Lions, who are expected to announce on Tuesday a leading sponsor for the tour to South Africa this summer. will continue on a four-yearly rotation but both the Australasian unions seek the variety they offer more regularly than once every 12 years. In the days of long tours the Lions used to visit Australia -

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al should be a thing of the past by the new millennium.

playing one or two interna-tionals — as part of the build-up to New Zealand. Only in 1989 did Australia host their

The IRFB has confirmed its

5 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

HANDICAP BETTING

Wales with a 4 point start 10/11 Scotland 14/1 Draw Wales 10/11 Murrayfield, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC Scotland

...1-5 pts

.6-10 pts.

.11-15 pts.

16-20 pts.

.21-25 pts..

16/1 Drawn Match

HANDICAP BETTING

Ireland with a 9 point start

.1-5 pts.

.6-10 pts.

.11-15 pts.

.16-20 pts.

.21-25 pts..

16/1 Drawn Match

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itting marges off scratch. Other groups repled, Ali William Hill Rugby rules appl

14/1 Draw France 4/5

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Evs ireland

RJS Shapherd (Meiross) 14 | C Evans (Lianelli) A G Stanger (Hawick) 18 A G Beteman (Richmond) S Hastings (Walsoniens) 12 IS Gibbs (Swansas) G P J Townsend (Northampton) K M Logan (Stirling County) G Thomas (Bridgend) C M Chalmars (Metross) A C Thomas (Swanses R Howley (Cardiff) **G Amstrong (Newcastin** D I W Hilton (Bath) J M Humphrays (Cardiff) D G Ellis (Currie) D Young (Cardill) The argument is constantly P Wellon (Newcodie) S M Williams (Neath) G O Liewellyn (Hariacuins) G W Welt (Newcastlin M Rowley (Pontypridd) A I Reed (Waspt) M I Waltace (Glasgow HK) C Charvis (Swansea) R I Wakewight (Watsoniane) LS Quinnell (Richmond) Referee: H A Smith (Ireland) BBC1: 2.55cm

Sundersand 2. SPANISH CUP: Third round, first leg: SPANISH CUP: Third round, first leg: Uside 1 Hisroules 0 Second leg: Deportivo La Coruhe 2 Seville 0 (eat; 2-2 or agg; Deportivo wet 3-1 on perts) LIANGULE Western Indicate Manageric Constitution of the Price (Waters) bt I Schulback (Aust 7-4, 1-7, 7-8; D Gourling (Scot) bt S Alboock (Ergg) 7-6, 7-5, R Carsic (Scot) bt S Ress (Water) 7-2, 7-3; K Kenhow (Aust) bt A Thomson (Ergg) 7-1, 2-7, 7-6; Semi-limst: Price bt Gourlay 7-8, 4-7, 7-2. DANAR RALLY (18th stage, Thribution to Neura, 585km): Carre 1, J.P. Fortensy (Fr. Missubsth) et ar 50mm 40ese; 2, K. Shihozuka (Japan, Missubsth) at 22se; 3, B. Saby (Fr. Missubsth) at 2min 16ese; 4, J. Mainschmidt (Ger. Buggy) at 547, 5, H. Missubsth (Japan, Missubsth) at 18:01, Overalt 1, Shihozuka 59th 38min 37sec; 2, Contensy et 20sec; 3, Saby at 11min 28sec. Motorcycles; 1, S. Peterhansel (Fr. Yarnetha) firs 55min 17sec; 2, D. Castone (Fr. Yarnetha) firs 55min 17sec; 2, D. Castone (Fr. Yarnetha) firs 55min 17sec; 2, D. Castone (Fr. Yarnetha) firs 55min 17sec; 2, D. Castone (Fr. Yarnetha) firs 55min 17sec; 3, O Gallardo (Sp. Cagliva) at 11:22, 4, J. Brucy (Fr. KTM) at 11:26; 5, P. Marques (Fr. KTM) at 13:204. Overalt 1, Peterhansel 52fr 06min 18sec; 2, Castone at 2m 31min 14sec; 3, Castone at 2m 31min 14sec; 3, Castone at 25:53ff. GOLE

NDIAN WELLS, California: Bob Hope-Chyster Classic: Leaders after into-rounds (Linded States Interes tested): 131: 132: JD Bishe 65, 67, 133: P Grydos 85, 81, 134: M O'Meare 89, 80; 7 Tolles 65, 60; R Cochran 65, 68: L Mattless 66, 68 (88; S Sump 89, 88, 135: J Cook 66, 68 Other score: 141: A Lyle (36) 67, 74. ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Maincheans 3 Cardill 11. PREMIER LEAGUE: Madway 1 Yongston 3. HOCKEY

PONTEY'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Pre Civision: Notingham Forest 1 Liverpo Sheffeld Wed 3 Stoke 1, Cup: Group th Manchester City D Stockpon 1.

AUSTRALIAN OF EXPLESS AS TO A SECOND

Third round

Men's singles

T-UP TROPHY: Quarter-finit, linst leg: Legards 79 London Towers 11: EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group E: CSMA Moscow 67 Alba Bortin 69, Maccabi Tel Anv 87 Charper (Bill) 70: Shitanet Milan 73 Olympithos 71: Villoutbeurne (Fr) 82 Dynamo Mozcow 52. Choup F: Estudianthes (Sp) 97 Ulker Spor (Tur) 63: Tearnsystem Bologna 90 Limopias 76 Group H: Kindler Bologna 90 Bityer Levertussen (Ger) 100 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Mismi 102 Boston 94, Adamba 78 Orbando 67; Houston 89 Sacremento 80; Denver 88 Cilevetand 87 (OT): Ullah 65 Phosnic 81; Portland 102 LA Lakers 98 C Moye (Sp) to B Karbacher (Ger) 6-2, 8-2, 6-2, J Bjothmen (Swe) fot K Brassch (Ger) 6-4, 7-8, 6-3, M Rose (Chile) to G Schaller (Austral) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1; M Washington (US) of T Woodordge (Was) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; F Manella (Sp) for A Boetsch (Fr) 8-3, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; T Empure (Swe) for Struguer (Sp) 7-6, 7-5, 6-2; A Mediveder (Ur) for D van Schoppergen (hol) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, M Cheng (US) for T Hermann (GE) 6-1, 7-6, 6-3. Men's doubles Second round

BIATHLON

ANTERSELMA, Bally: World Cup: Mon (20km). 1, L. Grecler (Austra) Servin 37.9sec, 2, R. Gross (Gar) 56:35.2, 3, S. Rojeov (Rus) 57:03.1 World Cup shand-ntge: 1, S. Rachau (Gar) 219pts; 2, Q. E. By-gorden (Man) 208, 3, P. Mouslimov (Rus) 189 Worman (15tray 1, T. Vodopyanova (Utr) 48:42.2, 2, A. Silvetska (Nor) 48:48.8; 3, U. Diet (Ger) 48:04.5, World Cup stand-inge: 1, S. G. Petter-Memm (Gar) 214pts; 2, M. Forsberg (Sme) 208, 3, Dist 186

P Cash (Aus) and P Kords (C2) 6-7, 7-8, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodbridge (Aus) and T Middleton (US) 6-0, 3-6, 6-1; P Matrias (Holl) and J Ellingti (Holl) for M Onchasia. (SA) and G Stationd (SA) 6-3, 6-4, M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt 3 Draper (Aus) and B Staven (MZ) 7-8, 7-8

Women's singles

A Huber (Ges) bt N Zwereva (Belzi) 7-5, 5-0; L Devenport (US) bt T Terresugen (Trai) 6-1, 6-0; S Graf (Ger) bt I Gernorssingut (Arg) 7-5, 5-3; A Coelzer (SA) bt M L Serra (So) 6-2, 6-2; K Po (US) bt R Harel (Japan) 6-2, 6-2; S Appelmens (Bel) bt K Booget (Holl) 8-1, 3-0 ret, M Perce (Fr) bt M Kootas (Ger) 6-0, 6-2; C Martinez (Sp) bt A Certagon (Swe) 6-0, 6-1. Second round

K kimpear (US) and C Woodrulf (US) wo D Princial (Ger) and M Göliner (Ger); D Johnson (US) bit J kivek (C2) and C Suk (C2) 6-4, 7-6; J Grabb (US) and R Pereitoring (US) bit G Grant (US) and R Smith (Bart) 6-4, 7-6; L Lobo (Ang) and J Sénchez (So) bit W Arthurs (Aus) and J Internet (Aus) 6-2, 6-0, S Natioboom (Holi) and F Wholer (Holi) bit K Thome (US) and J Wase (US) 4-6, 4-6, 4-5; E Ferreiro (SA) and S Sidle (Aus) 7-5, 6-4, M Denner (C2) and A Othrowky (Puss) bit W Djondjene (Yug) and A Nitmon (Macedonia) 6-4, 6-4, N Broad (GB) and P Novel (SA) bit Woman's doubles

First round C Rubin (US) and B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bit A Kournicova (Russt) and E Lichotovava (Russt) and E Lichotovava (Russt) 6-2, 6-3. Second round: N Avendi (US) and N Bollegral (Holl) bit J Law (US) and N Nagyora (Sovelka) 6-3, 8-3. D Graham (US) and K Reditord (Aus) bit A Berood (Aus) and N Prail (Aus) 6-3, 6-1; L

Michael (US) and L Wild (US) bt K Kroupove (Cd) and E Melicharova (Cd) 6-3, 6-1; K Habsudove (Slovalse) and R Zrubakove (Slovalse) and R Zrubakove (Slovalse) by R-4; Peri Sung-hae (Skor) and Sh-Ting Wang (Talwan) bt Y Sasuld (Indo) and C Vis (Holl) 7-8, 7-6; L Devenpont (US) and L Raymond (US) bt L Nemestrova (Cd) and P Langrove (Cd) 6-3, 6-4; M Hingle (Switz) and N Zvereve (Bele) bt I Gomorinategul (Arg) and A Montolio (Sp) 6-0, 6-1; R Dragonir (Borm) and S Farina (If) bt A Frazier (US) and K Po (US) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; G Fernendoz (US) and A Stincriez Vizzario (Sp) bt J Capristi (US) and I Majot (Cn) 6-3, 7-6; N Kijmuta (Japan) and C Wood (ES) 6-3, 7-5; L Neisend (Lat) and H Sukove (Cd) bt E Callene (Bel) and G Heigeson-Neiseen (US) 6-2, 6-2.

Mixed doubles First round

I Spales (Rom) and D Johnson (US) bt A Letters (US) and F Montains (US) 7-5, 8-0; M Overheins (Holf) and H J Davids (Holf) bt N Arenot (US) and C ver Rensburg (SA) 7-5, 5-4; M Bollisgraf (Holf) and R Lesoh (US) bt A Fusat (Fr) and D Adams (SA) 7-6, 7-5; L MotNet (US) and B MacPhie (US) bt K Adams (US) and L Pirnels (IS) 6-2, 8-1.

2:10.25; 5, M Eril (Gur) 2:10.31. Overall glant stations standings (after four races). 1. Compagnion) 260-bis; 2, Wacristo 2:00, 3, 5 Parczento (B) 215; 4, K Seizinger (Ge) 2:00; 6, U Honest (Slovenia) 162; Overall World Cup standings (after 16 races) 1. William 2:25-bis; 2, Seizinger 6:8; 3, H Gerg Gerl 5:87; 4, Compagnion) 4:95; 5, Wacristo 445.

RUGBY UNION A international matches 23 France Treband A: Tries: Clarke, Wellace. Cons Keerne 2. Pens: Keerne 3. France A: Tries. Artiguste, Semas-Selfes, Cazabou, Clade Magns, Mole. Cons: Aucagne 4. Pens: Aucagne 2.

Scotland 56 Wates 11.
Scotland A: Trises: Craig 3. Glasgow-Griffes, Lang. Peters. Cons: Wesh 6.
Pene: Weish 3. Wates A: Try: Coops.
Pene: Jaros 2.

(at Goldensore)

Under-21 International matches

Pent Ferret France Under 21: Tries Boy 2, Combes, Names, Marks. Cons. Barths 3. Pents: Berths 2 Dropped goet Barths 3. (at Angelses Rosd) 13 Wales Scotland Under-21: Try: Bull Cost Ross-Pants: Ross 2. Wales Under-21: Titles: Shorney 2. Core: Connor Pens; Cornor 2. Dropped gost: Cooner.

(at Goldenstore) CLUB MATCH: Bonymeen 44 Neeth 22 SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: Interpetional Open; Final qualifying round (England unies stated) 9 Dott (Soot) bt D Hern (Aus) 54; Hoffstipe (Soot) bt C Soonton 54; 8 Jones bt N Terry 5-1; P Wytes bt M Davie 5-1; S Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-4; A Rest & Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-4; A Rest & Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-5; A Rest & Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-6; A Rest & Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-6; A Rest & Pennell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-6; A Rest & Rest bt N Terry, 5-1; P Wykes bt M Davie 5-3; Permell bt M Bernnett (Wales) 5-4; A Rost B-D Reynolds 5-2; M Wilson bt A Davie; (Wales) 5-4; A Rost B-D Reynolds 5-2; M Wilson bt A Davie; (Wales) 5-2; M Hashin 5-2; M Hashin 5-2; M Hashin 5-2; M Hashin 5-2; M Hashin 5-2; M Hashin 5-3; A Rost Pell bt W Jones (Wales) 5-3; A Rost (Wales) 5-3; A Rost (Pell) bt W Jones (Wales) 5-1; Woodman bt F O'Brian (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Soci) bt S O'Conno (Ire) 5-3; J Barret (Ireda) 5-4; A Barrett (Soci) bt D Henry (Soci) 8-4

J W Davidson (London Insh) W D McBride (Malonet ERP Miller (Leicester)

Referee: A Wetson (South Africa) BBC1: 5 0pm (highlights) REPLACEMENTS: 16 K P McQuildin (Bective Rangers), 17 D G Hum-phreys (London Insh), 18 S C McIvor (Samyowen), 19 G M Fuicher (London Irish) 20 P Ravin (Biadvock College), 21 A T H Clarke (Northampton)

put on British Lions

first full Lions tour. Ray Williams, representing the four home unions, said: There is a strong possibility that the Lions will play in both countries on one tour

rather than splitting." wish that players should appear for only one country at senior international level. Although the legislation is not retrospective, and players serving the existing three-year stand-down period will not be affected, the dual internation-

T Castaignède (Toulouse) A Penaud (Brive) F Gaithle (Colomiers) C Califano (Toulouse) M Dalmaso (Agen)

The whole mood of the

France, and focusing on what irish players do well; we have no new caps, all of them have "If the players have any

lationship.

be on Saturday."

Italy earlier this month. Yet France, too, have to reestablish their credentials after losing both their away championship matches, in Scotland and Wales, last season. Their success in Euro-

DOMESTERNIS NO WHERE CHEED IN

REPLACEMENTS: 18 D A Stark (Metrose), 17 B R S Erksson (London Scottist), 18 B W Redpath (Metrose), 19 D S Munro (Glasgow High/Kelvinside), 20 T J Smith (Walsoniarre), 21 S Brotherstone (Metrose)

WALES

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Devise (Cardiff), 17 P John (Pontypridd), 18 J C Culturell (Richmond), 19 R G Jones (Cardiff), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansas).

SCOTLAND

CRICKET

15 N R Jankins (Postypridd)

MOTOR RACING: WORLD CHAMPION'S KNOWLEDGE OF SILVERSTONE EXAMINED ON FIRST DAY OF TESTING

Hill shines through darkest moments

DAMON HILL might have midnight. I have raced hern expecting a gentle intro-duction to his new car at Silverstone yesterday, but what he got was akin to a trial by ordeal. He has said many times that he could drive round the circuit with his eyes shut and last night he almost had to prove it.

By the time his new team had fixed a last-minute gearbox problem on his Arrows Yamaha, loaded the car onto a truck at their factory in Leafield. Oxfordshire, and driven to the Northamptonshire circuit, dusk had fallen over the old airfield and a thick fog was closing in.

When Hill eventually settled into the cockpit and the engine was fired up by his mechanics, he had to drive by instinct and the light of the moon, negotiating two miles of puddle strewn track on the South Circuit at speeds approaching 200mph.

He completed one lap and was wheeled back into a marquee, intending to return to the circuit to do two more tours. But by then it was so dark that his mechanics could not see and one of them damaged the car's exhaust as they tried to restart it.

The day was over but the object was achieved and Hill was still buoyant. The serious business of testing will begin at Jerez, in southern Spain, on Monday, and this first outing had at least plassed without a hitch. The next phase of the Formula One motor racing world champion's career has

"I suppose I could see about three or four car lengths out there." Hill said. "But I've been round here so many times I could probably do it at through the night at Le Mans before but we had spotlights

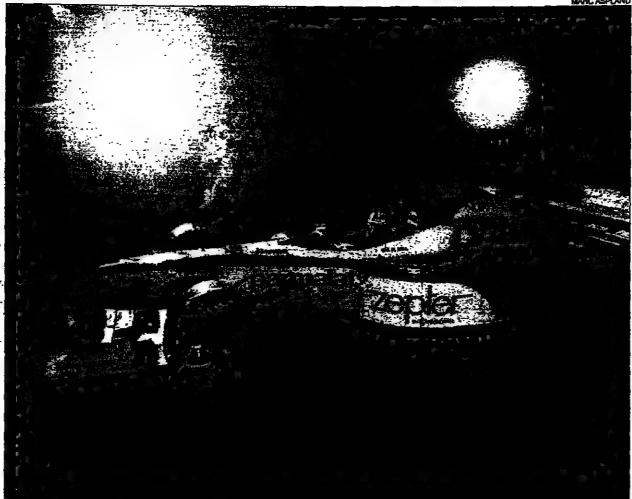
But we are on our way now. I was delighted with the way it went and the fact that it happened at all just shows how professional this team is. It went perfectly really and it was good to get back in a racing car after two months

Everything is in place now. We had to wait today until everything was right before we went out or there would have been no point. But now we can go to Jerez ready to get down to some proper action."

Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows team owner and the man who has forecast that Hill could win two races this season, was also pleased with the outcome after flying into the circuit by helicopter late in the atternoon. "This kind of thing is just a shakedown to make sure the wheels are turning," he said. "It is not quite as warm as it will be in Jerez but it was essential to get

Photographers and camera crews had begun gathering at the circuit early yesterday morning in anticipation of Hill making a prompt start, and by the time he eventually arrived the car park at the South Circuit, usually a deserted, windswept place, was full to capacity. William Taylor, Hill's biggest fan, who was flown out to Japan by his hero to watch him win the world championship last October, was there from dawn to

Hill spent most of the day in the warmth of a hotel in Buckingham, close to the circuit, but even when he arrived,



Hill emerges in the darkness at Silverstone to begin his test lap of the circuit in his Arrows-Yamaha car

he had to film an advertisement for ITV to promote its coverage of grand prix racing. which begins this season.

It seems to consist of him walking towards and away from a camera along a white line painted on the track. After four or five takes, the camera crew pronounced themselves satisfied. That bit went very

well, I thought," Hill smiled as he strode off towards his car. After a three-day test in Spain next week, Hill will be plunged into an intensive series of tests at circuits around Europe in the run-up to the opening race of the season, the

Australian Grand Prix in Mel-

bourne on March 9. His

Arrows has a new engine, a

Yamaha, new Bridgestone tyres and a totally new chassis, and all the various components must be tested extensively to try to achieve reliability.

Walkinshaw is banking on the influence of Hill and the prestige at having the No I on one of his cars to lift the team point. He is also hoping that the switch to Bridgestone will give Arrows an advantage over the majority of teams that are still using Goodyear tyres at up to four of the 17 races.

Despite the wait yesterday, Hill is forging into the future looking for light out of the

What makes Klusener the points. I like to put daggers in

CRICKET

مكذا من الأصل

Dravid chugs on to first Test century

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG (second day of five): South Africa, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 410 runs behind

HARDLY surprisingly, after more than five inches of rain overnight, only some 60 overs could be bowled on the second day of the third Test match between South Africa and India here yesterday. In those, India mok their first innings from 233 for three to 410 ali

The pleasure of the day came primarily from Rhaul Dravid's first Test hundred. Though very slow (148 in 362) balls and 540 minutes) it was an innings of style and instinct, and never boring. He will look back on the last month as a time when, through playing on firmer pitches than those in India and England, his career took an important stride forward.

C. B. Fry once said that there was no more natural batsman in the world than the Indian, and if, at the time, he was thinking very much of his contemporary and great friend, K. S. Ranjitsinhji, they come in many other shapes and sizes. Ranji's leg glance, sleeves buttoned and billowing, must have been a beautiful thing; but so is Dravid's cover drive.

The South Africans have not got over finding a pitch with no punch in it. For two days they have looked a fairly ordinary side. The one bowler to cause India much bother yesterday was Klusener, who, in the space of three overs, had Ganguly caught at second slip and Azharuddin at mid-on, and sent Laxman to hospital with a broken finger.

effective cricketer he is are his strength and competitiveness. He has been a late developer, who took to bowling only when the captain of the country side he was playing for in Natal said: "You're the youngest so here's the ball and get on with it."

The English county cricketwith the same build and colouring, is Matthew Fleming, of Kent. With the benefit of the sunshine and hard grounds of South Africa Fleming, too, might have moved the odd mountain, even in a Test match.

For a big man, McMillan moves very quickly at second

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Old Finchleians, Hale End v Particiett: Southgate Couray v St Mary's Colores

College SCHOOLS MATCHES: ESPA GOODY

slip. He made a good catch look a simple one to get rid of Ganguly. This brought in Azharuddin, whose innings left much the same impression as an express train passing through a station. He hit four reckless, brilliant boundaries before ballooning an attempted hook to mid-on. He showed no respect whatever for the bowling, something that even geniuses normally need to do.

The fastest balls of the match so far have probably been bowled by Klusener, when he has really bent his back. Donald wanted for luck and Pollock is not at the moment the cricketer he was against England a year ago. Adams, too, is up against

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First inrings M Azisundan c Hudson ib Klusehe V S Looman resired huri . A Kumble c Picherdson ib Kluseher J Sinish c Hudson ib Donald ... D Ganesh c Cultural ib Donald B k V Pracad not ou ...

FALL OF WICKETS 1-25, 2-46, 3-100 4-245, 5-266, 6-327, 7-403, 8-408, 9-410 BOWLING, Donald 32 1-9-88-3 Pollod 30-11-55-0, McMulan 21 5-4-50-0; Klusene 27-6-75-3, Adams 24-6-88-1 Cronys 16-3

Total (no wid) A.M. Bacher, D.J. Cultinan, "W.J. Cronje, R.M. McMillan, S. M. Politick, "D.J. Richardson, L. Klusener, A.A. Donald and P.R. Adams to

BOWLING Smath 02-0-0-0.

better players of spin bowling in the Indians than the Englishmen were. If he troubles the Australians more when they come here next month, it could be for their not having played against him before.

What the Indians have achieved these past two days should stand them in good stead when they go to West Indies, which is their next stop but one. They came into this Test match having had only 25 in the first two Tests. But now, even after Laxman's misfortune, there was one of 61 between Dravid and Kumble and another of 76 between Dravid and Srinath. and they topped 400 with Tendulkar and Azharuddin making only 53 of them --hardly believable really.

ALIGAY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Ireland v France

Tour metch

Five nations' chempionship

Cambridge University v Otago

BASKETBALL: THREE-POINT SPECIALIST WHITE MAY HOLD KEY TO SUCCESS FOR LEOPARDS IN NATIONAL CUP FINAL

Mims aiming to make the most of his lucky break



By NICHOLAS HARLING

OF ALL the happy coincidences in sport, lew can match that which has made this season the most fulfilling yet for Billy Mims. Just by appening to be in the right place at the right time when he travelled through Florida last may have determined the destiny of the first of this season's honours.

Should the London club win the Classic Cola National Cup final tomorrow, and be helped towards victory over Sheffield Sharks by a healthy contribution from John White, then Mims will forever bless the moment he stopped off at a Krisby Kream donought shop in Port Saint Lucie.

Mims, on a recruiting drive, picked up a local newspaper and turned to the sports pages
"to read that in the USBL Ithe States Basketball League], that very night the Treasure Coast Tropics were Baracudas." On taking in the game, as any conscientious coach would, Mims was immediately struck by the shooting prowess of White, whose 35 points included six threepointers from seven attempts.

Here was a player, Mims felt, who should have been competing alongside the elite in the National Basketball Association. "He belongs in the NBA. Some players are good enough to be in the NBA. He's one of them, but you have to be in the right place at the right time. I was: John, un-

luckily for him, wasn't "John is 30 now and it will be hard for him to get into the house on the fact that plenty of the guys in the NBA are not as good as John. He's a better shooter, a better guard."

White remains philosophical about his failure to achieve his ambition. "I had a good camp once with Indiana Pacers," he said. "I'm not saying that I should have made it but

people's hearts." time, but I don't harp on about The dagger was indeed it. I don't feel bitter about it." struck deep into the Sharks

White did not take up basketball seriously until his high three weeks ago when, in the school days at Fairdale in same Sheffield arena to which Louisville, Kentucky. He went he returns tomorrow. White on to study communications at collected 33 points for Leopthe University of Southern ards in a Budweiser League Mississippi, where he failed to fixture. The winners by nine points then, the Leonards may succeed again should White head coach blackbailed me, saying that I had an unbelievrespond positively to finding ably bad attitude"." himself even more of a marked man.

I came close. I was upset at the

For all that, it was at Hattiesburg that White developed a talent for long-range markmanship. "I like to take the big shots," he said. "If there's a turning point in a game that's one of my strong

to a traumatic 32-point home defeat at the hands of London Towers on Thursday in the 7-Up Trophy.

Just as significant, perhaps,

will be the Leopards' reaction

COMPRETENSIVE GUIDETO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated Pools coupon numbers in brackets FA Carling Premierahip

(1) Chelses v Derty
(2) Covernty v Manchester Utol
(3) Leicester v Werbledon
(4) Liverpool v Aston Ville
(5) Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wed
(6) Southampton v Newcastle
(7) Sunderland v Blackburn
(7) Sunderland v Blackburn

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† denotes three points of

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier divisions DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier divisions Agressore v Gravesend and Northleet. Baticos v Burten. Cambridge Cly v Suchury In; King's Lyrn v Ashford: Stringbourne v Nurseaten Midland division; Dudley Town v Bistor; Evestiam v Solius Boro Hindley Yearn v Coray Pagel R v VS Rusby, RC Warreck v Illustion, Redden's Sutting Colinied Town; Rethred Stringshed D. Stoubnidge v Stelland. Southern division; Carencester Town v Fleet T Cewadon v Witney, Darford v Neugant (IoWi); Feiher London: v Forest Green, Margalla v Weston-super-Mare, Towninge Angels v Each and Behredon: Yale v Troubindge.

LINBOAD LEAGUE: Premier divisions African v Warssort, Barnow v Aconnigion. UNIBOND LEÁGUE: Premier division: Afreton: v Winsland: Barrow v Accompton Starley. Friedley v Budon, Leok v Krowsley Marrie v Witton. Pret division: Droyleden v Netherfield; Farsiny Colic. v Curzon Annor; Girtha v Eastwood Town: Leoh v Congleton; Mastock Town v Great Hanvood, Raddalle v Patron: Stocksbridge PS v Warmington: Whatey Bay v Lincoln United Verksop v Atherton LFL.

Second division Second division

(19) Parnitos V Bristo City

(20) Bristol Rovers V York

(21) Blackpool v Crews

(22) Liton v Wrecham

(23) Notis County v Gallingham

(24) Peterborough v Prymouth

(25) Preston v Watford

(26) Rotherham v Wycombe

(27) Shrewsbury v Chasteriald

(28) Stockport v Millwall

(29) Walsell v Bournamouth

P W D L F

Third division

*not including lest night's mason
Third division

(30) Colchester v Carlisle
(31) Darlington v Cambridge Utd
(32) Exeter v Wigan
(33) Hartlepool v Doncaster
(34) Lincoln v Brighton
(35) Marstletpool v Doncaster
(37) Rochdate v Cardill
(38) Marstletpool v Hereford
(39) Scarnborough v Barnet
(39) Scarnborough v Barnet
(39) Scarnborough v Hereford
(--) Swansea v Leyton Orient
(--) Torquev v Fulham
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Bell's Scottish League Premier obieton First division Second division Brechin v Berwick

FA CAPLISBERG VASE: Fourth round: Ariessy Town v Herne Bay: Barking v Woodbridge Town: Bernerion Heath v Coll Row and Rominot: Concord Rangers v Weststable Town: Histon v Northwood; Mangotsfield United v Teuriton; Mossiey v Cogenhoe United: Southend Memor v Wisbood; Startland v N Fentby; Thatcham Town v Therion Th; Rhasting Town v Banstead Ath.

GEBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Caemar-ton v Barry (2:30), Cermenthen Town v Uansantifraid; Connei's Quay v Ton Pertire; Conney v Caersaws: Cembran v Porthmadog (2:30); First Town v Briton Fenty; Index Cable—Tel v Abenyshwyth, Rhyt v Weisingod Desect Schulch League: Premier division: Bowers v East Harn, Burnham Remblers v Sewbndgeworth: Concord Rangers v Greet Walkering; Bord v Ford United: Eton Marior v Stansrect Hullbridge Sports v Brentwood; Softton Weisien v Sastiono U PRISSS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE.

FA UMBIFO TROPHY: First round; Acaton United v Moor Green; Bath v Stevenage; Siyin Spatteris v Geartham; Bromsgröve v Merthyr; Cheltenham v Dutuch; Colwyn Bay v Lamoastar; Dover v Dagerham and Red; Emiley v Bostan; Enfield v Boreham Wood; Geinsbrorough v Bradford Park Avenus, Geinsbrorough v Bradford Park Avenus, Geinsbrad v Rumoon; Grasley v Atlancham; Guissley v Teltord; Hyde v Barbucht Linked; Kattering v Cheinstord; Kiddemnisster v Macchesfaldt; Morecamba v Chorley; Northwich v Hedrestord; Rushden and Damonds v Famborough; Stough v Dorchesier; Southport v Halesowen; Sparnymoor v Bishop Austhand; St Albans v Weymouth; St Lonades Stamond in Veleybord AFC; Stalybridge v Halfac, Woodsser City v Heybridge; Workington v Bamber Bridge; Yearding v Gloucester; Geathyn LeMster: Friender Gloucester, Yeard v Hayes.
LONDON BYARTAN LEASUE: Framler divisions Brook House v Harmell, Bausconfield SYCOB v Cocklosters, Haringey v Croydon, St Margaretsbury v Bransdown res: Weithern Abbey v Islangton St Marys. Woodlord v Harefield Coventy of the second of the s Basidon U.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND · LEA-GUE: Brons v Cove; Deveronvale v Frasenburgh: Nerm Coursy v Kelth; Peterhand v Fort William. TOMORROW

Aerostructures
LIMILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE, First Aerostructures

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clivialish: Hattacists is Wirmstrumk, Horshum

YMCA v Southwatch Langrey Spoors v
Paginam; Oatswood v Burgess Hill, Prortleid
v Eastbourne Town, Three Bridges v
Ringmer, Wick v Haishem; John O'Haria
Lengue Cup: Third rounds Peacehans Vilaincomer v East Pressor

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Finat
clivialors Bedeenham v Sheppey, Chetham
v Woodwich; Connithigan v Ravesham Cray v
Stade Green; Folkestone Invola v Ramisgate, Hythe v Deal; Thamesmead v
Crockenhill
HELLENG LEAGUE: Premier clivisions
Brackley v Swandon Supermanne; Didoot v
Amondictury; Farthord v Bunham, Kimbury
v Highworth: Shonwood v Contentin,
Warriage v North Leight

Uninsport Livinted
Cogenhoe v Mirriess Blacksone,
Ford Sports v Boutne; Northampton Spencer v Eynesbury, St Neots v Potton,
Spalding v Desborough; Stamlard v
Kempston; S and L Cotty v Holbeach;
Stottold v Long Buckley. Wootnon v
Wellingborough.

Stotiol v Long Buckby. Woorton v Wellingborough.
ENDSLEICH MIDLAND COMEDIATION: Premier division: Atvecturent v Highgate Coleshi v Biston Community College. Handraftan Tirribats v David Lloyd. Knowle v Coventy Solvite. Massey Ferguson v West Midland Fire Service, Viellesbourne v Southarn: Worcester Athetico v Bolehall S. President's Cupt Third round: GPT (Coventry) v Duckey Sports BANIOS3 INTEMERTY LEAGUE: Prisonier division, Biognoth S v Gomel Res; Cradley Tosm v Ledfow T; Derfastion v Selford T, Lye Town v Wednesfield, Tividale v Briefley Hill T, Walsal Wood v Westfield. hill T, Walsali, Wood v Westfields.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division. Auherton Collismas v Holker Clic Boys: Bootle v Trafford, Checidenton v Saltord: Eastwood H v Danven; Glossop North End v Newcastel Town, Mare Popel v Blackpool Rovers: Nantwich Town v Kidsprove; Pernath v Burscough; Rossendale v Prescot Cables; Vavahall GM v St. Hullots.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE Blaherinal v Halesomen H Biomech Town v Hocestar, Knyperziny V v Chasetown, Rushall O v Hindsley Athlete. Sandwell v Perstone T. Shinal T v Boldmere Si M. Stratord T v Petsell V: W Mid Polica v Sapenhall Wilenhall v Clidbury U ModTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier division: Amittings Welfare v Liversedge; Ashfield v Amold; Belger Town v Haffeld Man, Bingg Town v Ossen Town: Hucknall Town v Thackley, Methy MW v Halfarn, Ossen Alborn v Denaby Portetract.

Hallam, Oscell Abron v Denaby Ponterisch Cole v Pickering, Selby v Glasshoughton Welkere PEDIERATION BREWIERV NORTHERN LEAGUE: First christon: Bediengton Temers v HTM. Newcastle, Bullingham v Whatty, Consett v Durham, Durston Federabon v West Auckland, Eastington v Chester-le-Street, Blorpeth v Gasborough, Shidon v Seaham Red Star South Shrelds v Tow Law: Stocken v Clock, Whichtham v Miston Shiffelow First High LEAGUE: Premier division: Colerane v Glentoran Crusaders v Ards. Linlield v, Glensvon Portadown v Cithonville Riest division: Bangor v Ballyclare Carnot v Lame. Distribery v Orrasyn, Newry v Ballymena. Bangor v Ballyclare Carnot v Lame. Distribery v Orrasyn, Newry v Ballymena. FAH HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Fron Harps v St Patrick's Ain 17:30; Sigo v Durdalk (7:30) SOUTH FAHT COUNTIES LEAGUE: Field Avision: Ansenal v Fitham (110); Giftingham v Leyton Orient (10:45), Icanich v Cambridge Und (11:0), Miskell v Chalese (11:0), Tolienham v Portsmouth (11:0), Tolienham v Portsmouth (11:0), West Ham v Norwich (11:0) Persponent (11:0); Binstol Rovers v Swindon v Lindon (11:0); Binstol Rovers v Swindon v Lindon (11:0); Binstol Rovers v Swindon (11:0); B (1:0) SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First

SOUTHERM AWARTED LEAGUE. PROFISE EAST Barner OG v Norsemen; NatiWest Bernk v Old Esthermerans Old Actionans v One Perminerans, South Bank v Polygethne:
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier divisions Carthussans v Cholmeleans, Foresters v Etonans, Repleniaris v Lancing Arthur Dunn Cup; Second round: Brentwoods v Williams.

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premierahip Arsanal v Everton (4.0) Nottingham Forest v Tottanham

Nationwide League First division Port Vale v Queens Park Rangers (2.10) FAUMBRO TROPHY: First round: Raunds T v Welfing: Weltingham v Wolfing (2.0) PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP: Group three: Sloke v Menchester Chy (1.0) LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Ebbw

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Prantier division: Bohernians v Sharmock (3.15): Conk v Denry (12.0): UCD v Home Farm (3.15): Conk v Denry (12.0): UCD v Home Farm (3.15): Presser LEAGUE National division: Biteston v Southernpton (at New Manor Ground, 2.0). Postponed: Liverpool v Eventon FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Notis Coursy v Byth Spatrans; Wolvestrampton v Stoupport. Postponed: Gradinal v Shelfeld Wednesday; Huddenfeld v Shelfeld Wednesday; Huddenfeld v Shelfeld Wednesday; Huddenfeld v Shelfeld Wednesday; Huddenfeld v Shelfeld Wednesday; Huddenfeld v Shelfeld Wednesday; Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Town and Colony; Whiteheads v Dodd Reg Withhibedon v England. Postponed: Barithansiad v Time Bridges; Larkon Orient v Ibsanch. Liv Living Wolfeld She Cut. Fraum. round: Arsenal v Barry, Chelmstood v Highfield v Bankhamstedt, Preston v Denhern Ukt, Doncaster v Sheffield Wednesday, Ipswich v Middlesbrought, Tostenhern v Collier Row, Transmere v

Featherstone v Halitax (3.30) . .. Leeds v Sheffield (3.0) Oldham v Swinton (3.0) Rochdale v Central Lancs (3.0) Warrington v Salford (3.0) Workington v Barrow (2.0) RUGBY UNIÓN Kick-off 2.0 unless stated Courage Clubs Championship First division

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club matches

Seracens v Harlequins (3 0)

SRU TENNENTS 1558 CUP; Third round:
Ayr v Ross High, Berwick v Gordonians,
Biggar v Galle; Consterphine v Howe of Fite;
Dundee HSPP v Hillhead/Lerdamhit; Duns v
Gasgow Academicals; Edinburgh University v East Kibnide; Glaegow Highrifelvinside v Heleneburgh; Glerrothis v Langholm; Grangemouth v Glasgos Southern;
Haddington v Kilmamock; Hamilton
Academicals v Carths QP; Hawick Trades v
Garnook; Kelso v Livingston; Kriceldy v
Dunfermine (1.30); Unitingtow v Hawick
Linder; Lochaber v Musselburgh; Morgan Prestor Lodge, Salidin v Stewartry St Boswells v Bute; Stewart's Melville FP v Abertleenshire; Strathendrick v Edinburgh HOCKEY

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division:
Carnock v Did Loughtonians (at Morns
Ground, 230), Cartesbury v Sunstan (at
Polo Farm, 10), East Grinstead v Reading
(at Sarti Hui, 2.0); Haven't Teddington (at
Haven't College, 2 15); Hourston't Bartord
Tigers (at Dules Meadows, Chiswick, 1.30).
Southgate v Guildford (at Broomheid
School, 2.0) First division: Beeston v
Harkston Magpies (at Highlields, Nottingham, 2.0); Blucharts v Gloucaster Cay (at
Hitchin Boys' School, 2.0); Bournelle v
Freibrends (at King Ethased's Girls' School,
2.30); Bromiey v Edgbeston (at Priory
Lesture Centre, Orpingson, 1.0), Brooklands
v Doncastor (at Georges Floed, Sele, 2.0);
City of Portsmouth v Crostyx (at Alexandra
Park, Portsmouth v Crostyx (at Alexandra
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Restriction 2, 20), I and an Gymnicera v
Warnington (at France v Trollege (at Evaler HARI DINNESSIN, 2011. INDIAN GYMMERTA WARRINGTON (AT THOMPS). WARRINGTON (AT THOMPS). SCHOOL (AT Easter School, 1.30), Lowes v. Stourport (at Easter School, 1.30), Lowes v. Stourport (at Abans (at Barbury Road, 12.30), WOLMAN'S NATIONAL INDICH EASTER Premier divisions (Dion v. Sutton Colditeld; Belsam Lepester v. Chelmstord; Stough v. Door; Sutton Coefficial v. Bassim Lebester, Citour School, Stough v. Chelmstord v. Joseph (Highoust v. Stough v. Chelmstord v. Joseph (Highoust v. Stough v. Stough v. Joseph v. Joseph (Highoust v. Stough v. Stough v. Joseph v. Japanes v. Stough v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Stough v. Japanes v. Japan

First divesion: Ealing v Streffield, Canterbury v Wimbledon: Bracknell v Wolung, Don-casser v Ealeng Sneffield v Cardenbury, Wimbledon v Bracknell; Wolving v Don-casser Second diffusion: Abridge v St Albars. Portishead Firebrands v Bradford Swithenbank, St Austell v Liverpoof; Emouth v Alchidge: St Albars v Portishead Firebrands, Bradford Swithenbank v St Austell; Liverpool v Emouth.
WELSH WOMEN'S CUP: Second round; Bangor v Carotil Artelut, Buddey v St Clears; Colvyn Bay v Pontypridd; Newtonin v BSC: Penarin v Chepsony, Swensea v Haverloodwest; Cardiff Institute v Dowlas. Academy FP v West of Scotland, Peebles v Whatchurch v Carmerthen WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bowdon v Omskirk Cambridge University v Welwyn Gerden City.

> OTHER SPORT OTHER SPORT
> ATHLETICS: Scotlash indoor championstrips (at Knhan Hall, Glasgow)
> BASKETBALL: Classic Cola National Cup:
> Final: Leopards v Shetheld (at Shetfield,
> Arana. 7.0) Budwelser League: Crester v
> Newcastla (6.0)
> ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v
> Ayr (6.0); Cerdiff v Nottingnam (6.0)
> SNOOKET: Dr Marten's European Loogue
> (at Inthingborough),
> SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (at
> Swersea) VOLLEYBALL: National women's Cup:

Under-18 Trophy: St Maggerts Mersey side v Bridgewater HB, Cheshur (10:30) English Espha (10:30) English ESFA Shicken Under-19 Trophy: Wortheron, Hull v Astor CS, Sheffield (10:30) HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division:
Soutingale v Teidingson (Broomfold
School, 2.0). Pirst division: Odord University v Odord Hawks, (Si Edward's School,
11.30); St Alberts v Indian Gymkhana (Clarence Pask, 1.0): Trajams v Baleharis. (Stoneham Lane, 1.30).
MASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE Primine.
Leaguer Azzurro Leaguer Cold Kingstonano.

MASTRO AZZARRO LEAGUE Promise League: Anchorans v Old Kingstomani-Charlester v Hampstead/Westminstor, High Wycombo v Winchester Cid Whitighars v Fareham, Ramgartia v Astroro; Spencer v Gore Court. Turinndge Wells v Mindenhead: Wimbledon v Bounnemouth; Wolang v Beckenham, Wolanghem v Beckenham, Wolanghem v Remonand NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester v Riemgarina. Formbry v Swalvell. NORTHERN LEAGUE: Finat divesions: Chester v Reingertise. Formby v Suchivelli Nortion v Southport Shelflickl Bankers v Harrogate, Springleids v Nestian, Timperfoy 8 Ben Rhydring.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPIE LEAGUE: Premier divesions: khaisa v Blowwich: Loughborough Students v Covernty and North Warwicks. North North v Blossomfeld, Northighern v Harmston In-Arden, Otton and West Wennede v Harrborne. ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier divesion A: Bethops 2 Scrotland v Dereham; Cembridge Caly v Sudbury Cambridge University v Colchester, Ipsinich v Reindoge and North Peterborough Town v Chelmistord Premier division B: Bedford Town v Ipsinich and East Sutfolk Bury St Edmunds v Luton Town Clacton v Westoffit; Norwich Cary v Hurtingdon. Remitted v Old Southendern. Southendari.
SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division:
Basiol University of the second sec

sea, Weston-super-Marie v Dan and Llan, Whitchurch v Tarnfort Vale Woodsen's wartichal woods Deadule: Premier diseasor: Slough v Balsan Lecester v Hightown v Sifton Coldfield: Ibsench v Otion: Chelmoford v Stough; Selcam Lecester v Hightown; Surfice Colifield: v Ipsench v Generatory; Worlong v Shefteid Srachhol v Baling; Winbledon v Doncaster v Carlectury; Worling v Shefteid v Brachool; Earling v Winbledon Second division: Ermouth v Portishead First-teantis, Liverpool v Salona; St Austell v Aldridge: Bradford Swiffenbark v Ermouth Portishead First-teantis, Liverpool v Salona; St Austell, Aldridge v Bradford Swiffenbark, Wolling CLUB MATCHES Globarate Cay v Hampson-er-Arden, Harleston Magpies v Old Loughtoness. v Newtown, Heverlordwesi v Penerth Carditi Athletic v Pontypinod Carditi In

RUGBY LEAGUE Kick-off 2 0 unless stated Silk Cut Challenge Cup Second round

Second round
Clayton v Saddleworth
Outton v West Bowling Oution v West Bowling
Ovenden v Barrow Island
Rechall v Wigan Rose Bridge
Wigan St Perricks v Blackbrook (2:30)
York Acom v Mayfield
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE Premier drivision: Dudley Hill v Lock Lane (2:30). Egremont v Wootson, Heworth v Oldham Si Armes, Leigh Miners v West Hull (2:30). First division: Leigh Ecst v East Leads, Moldgeen v Eastmoor Thomatil v Wigan St Judes Second division: Devisbury Moor v Shaw Cress, Hull Dockers v Feetherstone Ameliers: Mitord v New Earswick, Normarton v Eccles
CLUB MATCH: Dewsbury v Castiolory

Courage Clube Chemplonship First division Clinucasier v West Hartlebook Second division Third division Catton v Morley
Fylde v Rednath (2.30)
Flavant v Lydney (2.30)
Flavant v Lydney (2.30)
Leeds v Otley
London Welsh v
Liverpool St Helens (2.15)
Fleading v Harrogate (2.15)
Floading v Harrogate (2.30)
Whartedate v Walsaft (2.15) Nemonal Amenical India Birmingham/Solfhull v Hereford (2 30) kendal v Winnington Park (2 30) Lichtheld v Preston Grasshoppers (2 30) Manchester v Nuneaton (2 30) Stoke on-Trent v Stourbridge (2 30) Worcester v Sheffield (2 30) Fourth division south

Askears v Plymouth (2.30) Barking v North Walsham (2.30) Berry Hill v Chellenham (2.30) Camberley v Newtoury (2.15) Charlton Park v Henley (2.15) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP. Quarter-finale: Comwall v Heritordshipe (at Redruth. 2.15), Cumbria v Yorkohire (at Aspains, 2 Dr. Somerset v Hampshire (at Bridgivater. 2 30) North. Pool two: Warwickshipe v Northumbertand (at Rugby, 2 0)

CLUB MATCHES: Grangemouth v Landybe (11.0), kakealdy v Aberdeen GSFP (11.0); Matras College FP v Gordonians (11.0); Metropolitan Police v Martenhead (2.0)

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budwelser Lesique: Hernel and Waltord v Detby (7.30): Worthing v Themes Valley (8.0)

BOXING: British middleweight champ-ionship: Newle Brown (Burton, holder) o Wilhe Curin (Edinburgh) tal Greenbart-Letsure Centre, Swadincore) ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Notingham v Newcaste v (7 0), Sherfield v Cardiff (7.0), Bearrgsloke v Ayr (6 30) LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society

League: Premier division. Choadic v Boardman and Eccles, Mellor v Heaton Mersey: Cheadle Hulme v Poynton; Moortnorpe v Old Waconuans, Stockpon v SMOOKER: Dr Mariens European League SWIMMING: British Grand Prov (Im

Swirreday

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men.
First division: Loods v Malory Inweham

11 01; Crotion Sportswearhouse v Poloma
Eating (3 01; City of Stote v Sportsel
Whitelield (2 30); Tooting Aquite v Wannosi.
Riga (6 30); Wessex v Reebols Liverpool
City (6 30) National women's Cup; Quarter-linal; London Melony v Loughorough
(12 0)

MARTIN LYNCH

RACING: TATE'S TALENTED PERFORMER TO REWARD BACKERS

Ask Tom can provide right answer for Kempton chase

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

SINCE the mighty Desert Orchid won the first running of the Victor Chandler Chase. at b-1, back in the 1989, the two-mile handicap has been a bonus for punters rather than the race's sponsor - and today's renewal can maintain

In eight runnings, only two horses outside the first three in the betting have obliged and. while that trend is no reason for excluding outsiders from calculations, there are good reasons for opposing the long shots again today, when half the field is out of the handleap. Exposing the chinks in a horse's armour is not always popular with owners, but it is important for punters in shortlisting possible winners. The much-hyped Callisoe Bay is not a natural jumper of fences, and my guess is he never will be. The best of Kibreet's form last season would give him a chance, but he failed to justify odds-on race behind Dancing Paddy at Cheltenham last time. The tenyear-old looks in the grip of the handicapper and is unlikely to find the necessary im-

provement at his age.

Dancing Paddy benefited from the small field last time and jumped better than usual. He can get rather low at some

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ASK TOM (3.10 Kempton Park) Next best: Make A Stand (2.40) Kempton Park)

fences and is likely to be found out in this more competitive event. Big Man, the winner of this race last year when it was staged at its usual Ascot venue, has been disappointing this season and is definitely best at the Berkshire course.

The front-running Clay County, without a race for three months, is better giving weight away to inferior rivals and may find this jump in class too much. This leaves the David Nicholson-trained pair, Viking Flagship and Storm Alert, and Ask Tom.
Interestingly, the Nicholson

runners yesterday ran as if in need of their outings after the freeze. Leaving that aside. I suspect the admirable Viking Flagship would appreciate more cut and a little further, and may need this race after a six-week absence.

Storm Alert, an Ascot specialist, beat Ask Tom half a length at his favourite track four weeks ago and is only Ilb worse off, but I will be surprised if he can confirm the form here. Russ Garritty made the error of being slowly away on Ask Tom at Ascot and he is likely to be much nearer the pace today.

"We have not missed a day's work with him during the freeze. I have a lot of good grass gallops and I am happy with him." Tom Tate, his

trainer, said yesterday. The eight-year-old, whose only defeat over fences last season came in the Arkle when he was still suffering the effects of a virus, has "great ability" and is being aimed at the Queen Mother Champion Chase. With bags of improvement to come, Ask Tom looks a solid

With a question mark against the fitness of so many runners, backers will need to exercise caution. Away from the gaze of the television cameras, it could pay to take on Ready Money Creek at Kempton (1.10) with Sea Victor, whose victory in a last-run race at Doneaster was boosted by the subsequent success of Endowment at Carlisle.

Those with good memories will recall Star Selection finishing sixth in the 1994 2.000 Guineas. Recently, he won a maiden hurdle at Hereford with minimal fuss and can follow up at Catterick (3.00) on his handicap debut.



Ask Tom, left, is fancied to get back on the winning trail in the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Kempton

Unguided Missile can strike target

HAYDOCK PARK BBCI

1.15: Bimsey is selected more in hope than confidence. Reg Akehurst's representative must take advantage of a favourable weight and his preferred ground to justify Champion Hurdle hopes. The seven-year-old made a race of it with Large Action (gave 8lb) last time when Pridwell finished well adrift after losing ground at the start. Pridwell is the form pick but is a notoriously difficult ride.

Dato Star appeared onepaced on a fast surface at Newcastle, Master Tribe, inclined to pull for his head. benefited from the strong pace in The Ladbroke last week.

1.45: Ungulded Missile is given a confident vote. The nine-year-old has improved with every outing: his failure to give 25lb to an on-song Go Ballistic last time was a noteworthy effort. He has won on his seasonal debut in the last three seasons, so the freeze should not have compromised him. Jodami was rated 9lb higher when successful at Kelso 13 months ago but this admirable chaser has become vulnerable to younger oppo-nents. With Scotton Banks disappointing this term. Nahthen Lad looks the biggest danger, although he may require a greater stamina test.

2.15: Ocean Hawk will be a warm order after his tenacious Ascut victory. The five-yearold had six lengths in hand of Pleasure Shared that day and meets that rival on identical terms here. However, because each of his four victories have come on right-handed tracks, Picasure Shared is preferred on this occasion. Top Spin. further behind the principals at Ascot, is bener off here but his winning record is poor.

JULIAN MUSCAT



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

KEMPTON PARK CHANNEL 4

2.10: Rosencraniz enters calculations, having won his first two starts before just being pipped by Hay Dance, who has won since. The step up in trip should suit. Elpidos is also racing beyond two miles for the first time and can oblige. He was unsuited by the slow pace at Doneaster last time, having previously stayed on well behind Penny A Day at Wetherby.

2.40: With Pridwell (likely to rum at Haydocki keeping ind weights down here. Martin Pipe can complete a valuable Make A Stand, Despite being eased down considerably last time when thrashing some novices, he still recorded a good time and looks up to winning again off a 9lb higher mark compared to when he won the William Hill Hurdle at Sandown.

3.10: see above.

3.40: Stately Home jumped particularly well when making all the running to beat some disappointing rivals at Sandown last time, but he will not have everything his own way here. Five To Seven, who also races from the front has progressed with virtually every run over fences. He ran particularly well behind Naiysari last time. Beatson has completed a quick treble but this is a tougher test.

RICHARD EVANS

KEMPTON PARK 2.40 Ashwell Boy 3.10 Callisoe Bay

12.40 Land Afar 1.10 Sea Victor 1.40 Fine Thyne 2.10 ROSENCRANTZ (nep)

3.40 Five To Seven 4.10 Tangletoot Tipple

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2,10 BARFORD SOVEREIGN.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2,10 BARFORD SOVEREIGN (nep).

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

firm, hard G — good, S — soll, good to coll, heavy). Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight, Rider plus any allowance. The Troos Procee Handlescoper's rating

GOING GOOD TO FIRM

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING 12.40 TWICKENHAM NOVICES CHASE (19,241: 2m) (5 runners) 5-17:13 DOWN THE FELL 42 (F.E.S) (Nrs. S. Johnson) J. Johnson B-11-11 A Minguine 5-17:131 GOLDEN HELLO 35 (D.F.G.S) (G. Shouler) T. Ensimbly 6-11-7 R. Samilly 31-1222 LAND SAPA 23 (CD.G.S.) (T. Ford) P. Weiten 10-11-7 J. Obborn 11-12112 MISTER DRUM 37 (F.G.S.) (B. Mischelor) M. Willemann 8-11-7 A. P. McCop-111-112 MANOYS MANTIND 36 (F.G.S.) (J. Plackeri) J. Bullord 7-17-3 P. P. Pièle

1996 TRYING AGAIN 6-11-3 R Dumicody (5-3) D Gundolfo 6 ran

1.10 JOHN COURT OF MARGATE QUALITY DECORATORS NOVICES

| | / | | |
|---------|-----------|---|---|
| 201 | 111172 | COURSARIE S3 (O.F.G) (Richard Green (Fine Pernangs)) M Page 5-11-7 A P.McGoy | |
| 202 | 2-1 | READY MONEY CREEK 52 (6) (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sharwood 6-11-4 J Osborna | |
| 203 | 1 | SEA VICTOR 125 (F) (J Abell) J L Hams 5-11-4 | |
| 204 | 5233 | ADALON 7F (T Matchell) J Sindser 1-11-0 | 7 |
| 706 | 02-40 | COUNTRY TAROUR 51 (Miss C. James) R Hodges 5-11-0 T Descombe | |
| .706 | 0-0 | SHITTHAN 37 (Mrs. J Highs) N Hawker 5-11-0 R Greates | |
| 207 | | HONEST DAVE 742F (D Newmen) B Penron 7-11-0 | |
| 208 | 680807 | MONTECOT 4 (Se Michael Cornell) 5 Melios 8-11-0 N Mann | ĕ |
| 309 | 65 | SARFNACARE AB (Samma Piesbes) P Hobbs 5-11-0 6 Tourney | |
| 210 | 232-03 | MAYLIN MARIC 33 (Exces of F Lipecomb) T Cavey 6-10-9 | E |
| BETTIN | 2 9-4 Cou | barl, 3-1 See Victor, 7-2 Ready Money Creek, 4-1 Montecox, 8-1 Additiv, 14-1 Mayim Ma | ø |
| 20-1 mg | er. | · · | |

1986: JET RULES 6-11-0 A P McCov (4-1) Mrs J Patran 13 sm

.40 SUNBURY NOVICES CHASE

BETTING: 8-11 Fine Thyme, 6-4 Sunser And Vine. 20-1 Pen s Grottor. 25-1 Volksytan 1996. FELLOW COUNTRYMAN 9-11-10 R Dursecody (18-1) X Bailey 9 rat

(£8,165: 3m) (4 runners)

CALL MY GUEST 101 2nd of 5 to Pirad Earth of handicap hurdle here (2m 5), good to liant) perulti-make start. ELPDOS 31 3nd of 5 to New Iron an handicap hurdle at Doccation (2m 110yd, good to farm) MORSTOCK base Phes From Furny 21 in 12-content as a Settlement of the Settlement Start. SARTORA) SOVERESON baset

45; 2m 5f) (13 rathers)
138245- LUCKY BLIE 329 (8.5) (* Noomaat 5 Earle 10-12-0
195-20 CALL MY GUEST 31 (6.5) (D Clee) R Pascock 7-11-7
4-4500 ALL TIME DANCEP 28 (F.E.5) (H Hymna) 0 Sharmod 5-11-3
11-3543 E.PDOS 35 (F.5) (Hosen) Labelets 8-11-3
11-3543 E.PDOS 35 (F.5) (Ms. M Winter) M Hammond 5-11-2
402212 MORSTOCK 47 (6) (Ms. M Farbann) R Hodges 7-10-10
11-2541 BARFORD SOMERIEM 37 (D.F.(3) (Barlot Bloodstock) J Families
(11-12 ROSENCRAFT 5-1 (RF.F) (F. Falton) Mics V Wilkiams 5-10-5
1832-43 SMUGGLEET SOMET 30F (F.G.) (Ms. V Mora) J Brotge 7-10-5
3/4006 STORM DUST 39 (C.C.) (RT See H. Royal 8-10-5
3/4006 STORM DUST 39 (C.C.) (RT See H. Royal 8-10-5
3/4024 STORM DUST 39 (C.C.) (RT See H. Royal 8-10-5
3/4024 STORM DUST 39 (C.C.) (RT See H. Royal 8-10-5
3/4024 R ROYAL PRER 37 (6) (A Derforgian) A J Wilson 10-10-0

2.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP HURDLE (23,745; 2m 5f) (13 rumers)

2.40 SUN KING OF THE PUNTERS LANZAROTE ndiese: Roll A Dollar 9-12, Mester Tribe 9-12, Neyson's Choice 9-12, Tom Brodie 9-12, Ros Clesie 9-11.

1998: ANGELO'S DOUBLE 8-11-5 J Culloty (7-1) R Burdéer 15 no

FORM FOCUS

BETTING: 7-4 Maio A Stand, 6-1 Missier Bevaled, 7-1 Chial's Soog. 8-1 Silver Groom, 10-1 Drawns End. Gi Canaller, Myson's Choico, 12-1 Tern Broder, 20-1 Asimuel Boy, Klassiv, 33-1 Roll A Doller, Ros Casille 1996: WARM SPELL 6-11-2 A P McCoy (20-1) 6 Moore 12 tes

FORM FOCUS

TRAINERS

CHEFF'S SONG best Warm Spell 11 is burdle harm.
Film, good to firm) parallement start. MAKE: A
STAND tree MAKTER BEVELED (35 better 40 27 21 in headings hardle at Sendom (2m 10pd, good) in headings hardle at Sendom (2m 10pd, good) in headings hardle forced by bester 40 17 4 film and started best MASTER BEVELED (11s or SEX/ME GROOM (5m better 40) 17 4ft and or SEX/ME GROOM (5m better 40) 44 14th. GALES CAVALER 181 2m of 6 to Outsin Figur at goads V

COURSE SPECIALISTS 151 84 94 46 46

3.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE

Long handsap: Clay County S-13, Big Mait 9-12, (Obrest 9-11, Californ Bay 9-5.

1996 (non-el Ascot): BBC MATT B-10-4 Mr A Ficquelió (6-31 M Hardisson 11 m

FORM FOCUS

VICENT FLASSHIP S 2m of 4 to Several New 41 cards 1 Adisorded Severan Temple Creek Propring Common Temple Creek Propring Common April 10th India Pales 27) to 5 common April 10th Common Common April 10th Common Common Common April 10th Common Common Common April 10th Common Common Common April 10th Common Comm chase at Assot (Zun. good to Smit) DANCHAG FRADIT from GERRET (Zin under ad 344 to 1-resum handscap chase at Chellenteam (Zin 110pd, good to first) CLAY CURRY (10) 2nd of 4 to Suber Taches to handscap chase over course and distance (good). BIG MATT 2014 6th of 12 to Challenger de Line in goode in Monohy's Gold Cap Handscap Chase at Chelhenteam (Zin 41 110pd, good to then) an permithente elect with NERGET (20) booker of) 447 100b

3.40 SUN PUNTERS CLUB FULWELL HANDICAP CHASE 1

SETTING: 3-1 State Hoos, 4-1 Go Universit, 9-2 Beaton, Pive To Since, 7-1 Lackstonics, 8-1 Strong Medicals. 1008 MASTER BOSTON 8-11-7 L Way (3-1) R Woodsom 7 in

FORM FOCUS

GO USINETSAL W Seri of 10 in Addication Boy in PRIE TO SEMEN 3161 2nd of 11 to historical in a tipe grade ill Trapignos Good Cop at Chellennum. Imagican chesa at Longard (2nd 41 116ys, peed to (2n SL good to fam).

STATELY PLONE has STRONG ANEXOCRUE (18)
bester of) 12 in a 5-monter handcap chase at 5-monte (2n) 1104, good it 5-monte (2n) 1104, goo

4.10 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HURT FLAT

2 CHEMINATESPER 28 (9 Stay) 19 Patters 5-11-5 Mins M. Hills
5-8 CLINIONG 42-(6) Harwood Mas A Parati 6-11-5 Miss A Parati
BIBARIGO (1) Deating 1 J. Deating 5-11-6 Mir R Deating (7)
GREMATIC (Mins J Hotels M Hawles 6-11-5 R Committee
OP. SHAWARIC 257 (Mins H Vani) M Mangaride 5-11-6 B Facility
0-2 TRANSLEGOTT TEPPLE 2207 (Mins J Parating R Alaur 8-11-5 Plants) (8)
STARS ISAND (High Sees Literary Link) D Beaugh 4-10-7 Mir M Moorm (4)
TEN TRIES (Triess of Wigner) M Para 4-10-7 A P MisCoy
CURRIER SELL (C Minszy) C Mayray 4-10-2 K-500 BETTING: 9-4 Emberga, 11-4 Templetool Topole, 3-1 Tem Tieres, 8-1 Ster Intend, 12-1 Clining, 16-1 Clining Bell. 20-1 calous.

1992: COLONE, BLAZER 4-10-2 6 Root (4-1 lav) Mass H Knight 21 mit.

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER 12.45 Minella Derby

1.15 Bimsey 1.45 Unguided Misaile

TRAINERS

G Richards J Fitzgerald C Brooks N Twiston-Daviet Mrs J Priman

Grand National.

2.45 Simply Dashing 3.15 Time Won't Walt 3.45 Colour Code

2.15 Ocean Hawk

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

12.45 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE

778 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1-1 MINISTLA DERBY 70 (0.5) (6 Kiloy) Pilachalls 7-11-11.

2-342-16 TREMENDSTO 14F (6) (0 Wartaill) J Wileam 7-11-11.

8 BERFLEET 86F (1 Empt) M Pige 6-11-6.

50-65 FLANLEY WINDO 32 (this 3 Le index) R Buddle 6-11-6.

8 GALEN 25 V Remon) Mrs. II Reveloy 6-11-6.

9 GANYRY 650P (1 Stulles) G McChart 7-11-4.

HARBOUR SLAND 95F (M Jones) M Pines 5-11-6.

10 GANYRY 650P (1 Stulles) G McChart 7-11-6.

11 GANYRY 650P (1 Stulles) G McChart 7-11-6.

12 GANYRY 650P (1 Stulles) G McChart 7-11-6.

13 GANYRY 650P (1 Stulles) G McChart 7-11-6.

14 MON BEEF (M Jo Gany) P Pickbs 6-11-6.

15 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 7-11-6.

16 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

17 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

18 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

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14 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

15 GLIBS CARRESEAN 74 (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

16 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

17 La Mon McChart 6-1.

18 GANYRY 650P (1 Mary P Pickbs 5-11-6.

19 G. (1 Mines) 6 Perm 4-1 Mary 6-1 Mar

?-1 Minetia Detty. 4-1 rianbour Sanc. 5-1 rumbeca Guten, 6-1 Benfleet, 7-1 La Mon Dere, 8-1 g. 18-1 Leap in The Dani, 12-1 other…

1996 THREE PHILOSOPHERS 7-11-12 C Literalian (Every Lay) I Forget 10 pp.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

□ Avro Anson is reported "85 per cent fit" for today's Peter Marsh Chase by his trainer, Maurice Camacho. The gelding is being aimed at a spring campaign and possible attempt at the

BETTIME: 5-2 Byrnay, 11-4 Dato Star, 7-2 Protect, 7-1 Right Win, Master Tribe, 10-1 Mishagont, 12-1 others. 1809: MYSLV 8-11-2 J Ostomie (10-11 July C Egodon & ram FORM FOCUS

1.15 BELLCHARM MITSUBISHI CHAMPION HURDLE TRIAL BECT

TRACE; HERD been Domms. End mach in the 18numer grade in Coording Hornes Section Handscap
Hurdle over course and distance (good) final start
lest year
DATD STAR 11 and short-hand 3rd of 8 to Space
Turcher in the grade in Newtzette Building Spaceh
Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Meansable (2m, good)
PRODNELL best either 8% 3rd of 1% to Coller Bay
In the grade I Smortis Coampion Hurdle Challenge
Trophy at Cheleraham (2m 110yd, good to sold)
last season with FISHT WIN (3th source off) palied

1.45 PETER MARSH CHASE (Limited handicap: grade II: £24,776: 3m) (6 runners)

Long handicap: Avro Anson 10-0, Grange Brain 9-1 BETTINGS: 11-10 Linguided Missile, 100-30 Judami, 5-1 Mabitien Lad. 7-1 Scotton Basilis. 10-1 Auto Ansson, 16-1 1996: SCOTTON BANKS 7-11-6 R Garren (15-8 lart) M H Security 6 ray

FORM FOCUS JODAMI SI 2nd of 5 to The Gray Mank in a landed bandcap classe at Airstee (3m 11, good)

LINEATION MISSALE TWI 2nd of 9 in the Bathwise in a handcap classe at Association 17 is associated by Market Missale Classe at Chellandram (3m 11, good to soft) hims start last season. SCOTTON RANKES talled off 3nd of 4 to Musticare Classe at Chellandram (3m 11, good to soft) hims start last season. SCOTTON RANKES talled off 3nd of 4 to Musticare Classe at Chellandram (3m 11, good to soft) hims start last season. GRANGE BRANCE 1694 5th of 7 to Bellowin King in Sense of the Chellandram (3m 11, good to 5m). Best allott beat Barken Bank 151 at 15 at

BLINKERED FIRST TIME Haydook Park: 145 Scotton Banks, 3.15 Easthorpe Kempton Park: 2.10 Seed Rioga, 3,40 Ganylough.

2.15 TOTE PREMIER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE (Grade 11: 212,740: 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners) BETTING: 4-5 Octon Hank, 7-4 Pleasure Shared, 10-1 Copper Boy, 12-1 Mudahim, 20-1 Russy, Top Spiri

FORM FOCUS OCEAN HAWK best Trainglot 41 in the grade I Long Walk Huddle at Assot (3m il 110yd, good to firm) with PLASSIPE STAFFED 3 3 et al. TOP STAFF.

The basic off) 51 4h COPPER STAFFED 13 STAFF.

The basic off) 51 4h COPPER STAFFED 10 STAFF.

The basic off) 51 4h COPPER STAFF (10 STAFFED) 10 STAFF.

The basic off) 51 4h COPPER STAFF (10 STAFFED) 10 STAFFED 11 STAFFED

1998: BETTER TIMES AHEAD 10-11-3 A Dobble (4-1) & Bichards 11 was

2.45 ST HELENS COLLEGE STUDENTS NOVICES CRASE 5-11F11 SMPLY DASHING 28 (D.F.G.S) (5 Handbook) T Easterly 6-11-12 R Dangbook 20122F BALLYLEE 53 (6) (49 Parison) W Revis 6-11-3 N Williamson & 3P-P221 RABSY TRUTH 36 (6), ON Westing M Westing 11-11-3 N Williamson & U4-0310 LA MEZERAY 52 (DF.F.G.S) (Mrs. J Handbook) Mrs. J Handbook 8-77-4 D Webb 54

BETTING: 2-9 Simply Dashlog, 6-1 Filmsy Truth, 12-1 Ballytica, 20-1 La Mezaray 1996: RANTHEN LAD 7-11-10 W Marston (10-11 far) Mrs J Pittani G can 3.15 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB HANDICAP CHASE

1/39P-43 SOURD REVELLE 35 (D.S.S) (Mrs. 6 Abecasse) C Brodes 9-11-10 fill Berry (7) 41-126-204 EASTHORPE 37 (B.CD.F.G.S) (M Broughton) Mrs. H Knight 9-13-9 JF 1999 89-11-2011 Park WWYT WWIT 36 (D.D.F.G.S) (Mid Berls Parkers) R Philips 9-13-2011 Parkers 46 (D.F.G.S) (6 Money B Hoton 10-11-17 Philips 9-13-23-41 KDWWEKTA KIPS 64 (D.F.R.S) (Mountain Ltd) (J. Shermood 9-10-13. 18 Daymood 9-10-13. BETTING: 13-8 Political Tower, 15-8 Konwida Warg, 100-30 Time Worlt Wall, 6-1 Estimpe: 7-4 Sound Renal 1996: CLAY COUNTY 12-11-12 A Magnite (5-4) M Hammond 3 spr.

3.45 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 1 14 BALLAD MINISTRIC 284 (CD.S.) (C. Strater) J. Fizzpand 5-11-11 ... D. Carbony
2 7 CHILLER CODE 69 (G) (B Winher) Mar. A Sembana 5-11-11 ... D. Carbony
3 5 CHISY ROLE 39 (D. Equino Sapplica) N. Teisson-Device 5-11-4 ... C. Umenby
4 WITCH The BLACK I. Hostely lets M. Frendey 6-11-4 ... P. Norm
5 3 MERRY MASQUEFACE 29 (G Brown) Mrs. M. Remely 6-11-4 ... B. Hodge:
6 5 MORRESTER DARRY 30 (J. Abarry J. Adan 6-11-4 ... B. Hodge:
7 CHAMPS-GRU, (First Thursday Chie) B. Murray 4-10-1 ... W. Dand
1 TA-RA-AMT (P. Straye) T. Wall 4-10-1 ... N. Williamstell
BETTING: 6-4 Colour Code, 7-2 Ballad Ministrel, 4-1 Into The Black, 7-1 Coop Ride, 15-2 Menty Masquesha, 6-1
Montaless Darry, 33-4 Champa-Set, 50-1 Ta-Re-AMX.

1998: AGISTMENT 5-11-13 M Dwyer (11-1) J Pitzgerati 20 ras.

Pipe shows preference for weighting game

MARTIN PIPE yesterday made use of the fine print in the rules of racing to try at Kempton means the weights for the fine print in the rules of racing to try f20,000-added race do not rise, boosting or over. to help him land two big-race triumphs today. Pipe declared Pridwell for the Sun King Of The Punters Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle at Kempton and the Bellcharm Mitsubishi Champion Hurdie Trial at Haydock.

He announced Haydock as the geld-

the chance of stable-companion and antepost favourite Make A Stand. Pridwell's acceptance at Kempton prevents a weights rise of 14lb.

The double declarations will not attract a fine from the stewards as Rule 144 (iii) states that no penalty is to be imposed if a ing's first preference, but leaving him in preference meeting is stated and both comment to make," he said.

Paul Bradley reacted to the news of Pridwell's declaration at Kempton by announcing his recent Unoxeter with the Tejano Gold, a non-runner. With the topweight left in the race. Tejano Gold was 10th out of the handicap. The horse is withdrawn and I have no other

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10/1 Dancing Paddy

12/1 Kilbreet 16/1 Callisoe Bay Each way One Fifth the odds a place 1,2,3 Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 2,55pm. Tattersells Rule 4(c) may apply Non runner - no be LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT

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RACING NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY Lingfield Park (AW, 145). Leosser (130) Market Rasen (110) THURSDAY, Linghald Perk (AV. 140), Huntergion (120) Wetherby (135), Windestron (130) Wetherby (135), Filipaly: Southwell (AW 130), Doncaster (100), Folkettone (130) Unioveter (15)

SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW 1 30), Ayr (BBC, 12-40) Chehenham (C4, 1 00), Don-custer (C4, 12 45) Flat meetings in bold





Captain Jack, right, jumps fluently on his way to victory in the Runnymede Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Kempton

Summer Spell warms to task

By JULIAN MUSCAT

AND A LEADING DET

HE MAY not have been the mostappropriately named winner at a chilly. Kempton Park yesterday, but Summer Spell warmed the hearts of a sparse crowd in winning the Walton Juverile Novices Hurdle with total authority.

The Alleged entire, a useful performer on the Flat, was entitled to move purposefully throughout the race. But his swift, accurate hurdling proved a potent asset as he swept clear of Mr Wild and Quality, with Far Dawn, unbeaten in two previous outings, in fourth. Coral wasted no time in pricing Summer Spell at 16-1, from 33-1, for the Triumph Hurdle at

Not a day will pass between now and March without Cheltenham quotes being cattered like confetti. Most will be meaningless but this one might prove significant for a race which, so far, has assumed no definition at all. It remains to be seen how Summer Spell copes with

hock-deep ground, but the prospect of testing conditions at Cheltenham is surely remote. This horse has all the Triumph Hurdle attributes - such as one can identify in previous winners.

Nicky Henderson knows more about that than most, having landed the prize with First Bout and Alone Success. Although Henderson played it softly in the winner's enclosure, there was no disguising his excitement for the brown colt, the mount of Mick Fitzgerald. The horse loved it. Mick said he was brilliant and it looked a good race. He has been working very well. Mind you, he proba-bly finds working with my jumpers

terribly easy."
Fitzgerald, who kept a hold of Summer Spell until after the final flight, adopted the same tactics aboard Sharpical in the Ashford Novices' Hurdle. However, as dangers loomed on either side, Sharpical jumped awkwardly, was slowly away from the obstacle and failed to contain Secret Spring on the short run-in.

This was another informative contest. Secret Spring had failed narrowly against Sanmartino, prominent in the Champion Hundle betting, at this venue three weeks ago. "Sammartino stayed the better," Peter Hedger, who trains Secret Spring, said. "It's nice to have another good one in the yard but he won't be going to Cheltenham. He needs a flat track so we will aim him at Aintree instead."

If Hedger was indulging in plenty of theory. Robert Alner was inclined to throw the manuals out of the horsebox after Super Tactics had prevailed by 14 lengths from Fine Harvest in an eventful renewal of the Easter Hero Handicap

Alner, not a believer in the merit of allweather gallops, has had his string so badly held up that he all but withdrew Super Tactics. "The horse put on 30 kilos even after we cut back his feed," the trainer said. "I only ran him because he likes this place so much. They make fools of you, these horses."

-1.00 Pripos Of Saints: 1.30 Dering Peet. 2.00 Bud's Bet. 2.30 Twin States: 3.00 Del Piero, 3.30 Abbeylet; 15.00 Scoreme Target.

3-1 Steed Approach, 7-2 State Options, 5-1 Prince Di Salots, 6-1 Chanter, 8-1 Emi, 10-1 Phar Echo, 12-1 Chill Factor, Political Bill, 14-1 cliebs,

10 -BUS GONE ASHORE 8 M Barnes 6-11-8. 79 Williamson (7)
11 SOPP LEPTON 42 (6) J Cartie 6-11-3 J Callegian
12 SOT- ROYAL CRIMISON 329 (7) M Hammond 8-11-3 M C Borner (8)
13 -BOD SULTIN COAST STAR 29 J Howard Johnson 7-11-3. A S Smith
14 PRED URBAN DANIONG 42 (6.5) B Edison 8-11-3 G Cahiz
15 -BUS WEENERY SS (7) M Bustachung 8-11-3 T J Marray
16 2-32 CHORUS LINE 78 (6) P Beatmant 8-10-12 R Sopola
17 002- DIDDY RYMEN 222 Mrs S Smith 7-10-12 Mr P Martay
18 4 E CRANK SEIGR 98 R Weathcast 5-10-7 0 Byrns
18 4 E CRANK SEIGR 98 R Weathcast 5-10-7 0 Byrns

2.00 DARLINGTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HUMBLE (\$2,058; 2m) (15)

1,30 BEDALE HOVICES CHASE

(£2,931: 3m; 11:110yd) (28 numers)

SOINS: SOOD 1.00 SWALE HOVICES HURDLE

Kempton Park

4.10 (Sm 110yd hole) 1, Coleenry Boy (N Williamson, 5-1): 2, Olympien (7-2); 3, Dwall Dencer (11-4) Tim 2-1 4as. 6 ran. NR: Fortunes Course. 1WI, 19th Mrs J. Pirman Tote. 65.00: 52.60, 52.40 DF: 65.80 CSF 520.89

LS of CST 200 of CSB withing tiskets. Pool of £3,741,33 carried toward to Kempton Park today). Placepot £81,10. Canadpot £13,40.

E230 DF-EA30, 190 E100 CSF E1130 1.30 (2m 110)d India) 1, Rosself (A Dobbin, 5-1); 2, Soldar (1-2 lev), 3, Jackson Park (B-1), 12 ran Nr., 4L P Montesth, Totar 5-10, 21 50, E1 10, 52.80, DF-12.50, Tino: E4.20, CSF E7.20,

20 27 30 27 30 27 30 22 20 20 20 24m ch) 1, Saven Teawers (8 Storey, 11-2) 2, Mony-Sep (16-1): 3, Lo Smegone (11-2) into The Red 5-1 law 13 ran, 41, 41 Mrs M Reveley, Totis, 27,60: 22 90, 64: 30, 51 70, DF 578: 30. Tro: £138:30 CSF. 230 23m 10.0c node) 1. Direct Route (P Catherty, 100-30 (1-law), 2, Uncle Doug (16-1): 3, Thorston Gale (10-1), Hattis Bretze 100-30 (1-law), 2, Uncle Doug (16-1): 3, Thorston Gale (10-1), Hattis Bretze 100-30 (1-law), 20, 120, 120, 23.70 DF £19: 40, Thio £236: 90. CSF: £47.16. Tricket £441: 09

3.50 cm 21 hdie) 1. Abulu (P Carberry, 4-5 tov) 2. Revolt (12-1); 3. Mythical Approach (9-2) 19 ran 71, 1%4. J Fitogeraid. Total 170, 51 10, 52 40, 51,60. DF 59.00. This 513 50. CSF 511 32. Placepot: £32.00. Quadoot: £19.60.

Southwell

1.15 (6): 1, Pat Express (L.Chamosk, 5-2 ji-ta); 2, Tipasure Youth (5-2 ji-tav); 3, Minor Four Sport (12-1), 7 ran, 11, 7, P Haslam, Tole: C3 60, C1 80, C1 50 DF: £2 80, CSF, 66:31

150 (P) 1, Kingehip Boy (A Clark, 10-1); 2, Indi Arestotzi (11-1); 3 Pleasure Tack 11-2); Amesome Verture 5-1 lae 14 rsh. 9-4 M Plan Tote C11-00; 53 10, E3 30, H30, DF, E41.00, Tho: £153.70 TCSF 714 13 Those; E627.27.

2.30 LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE Œ3,160: 3m 1/ 110yd) (17)

| | - 4 | L-St | Mr. 253602 45 (8705,4) L miletali i i i i i - 1 - 15 - cm k r kera |
|---|------|----------|--|
| | Ě | 11-3 | RUSSIAN CASTLE 4 (F.G) J Wein 8-11-9 K Jones |
| | 3. | -847 | POTATO MAN 31 (S) B Elison 11-11-8 A Dobbin |
| | . Ě | 21105 | BALE AHEAD 45 (D.F.G) 6 Moore 7-11-2 |
| | 6 | | BALE AHEAD 45 (D.F.G) & Moore 7-11-2 N Bestiny MARCHNOOD 80 (G.S) N Cosmbudein 10-11-2 7 Rood |
| | ă. | PPAIL. | TWIN STATES 45 (CD P.B.II) J THERE 8-11-2: |
| | . J. | 0616 | TWIN STATES 45 (CD.P.S.S) I Tenter 6-11-2 W Fry SISTER ROSZA 31 (S) Wis S Entreprint 6-11-1 D Byrns |
| | ė | 9984 | THE TOASTER 31 (C.F.O.S.) Lifes IV SERVICE 10-10-13 |
| | | 9247 | AS Britis |
| | | P3-1 | HEAVENLY CITIZEN 30 (CD.F.B.S) J Gladion 9-10-13 & Storey |
| | | 433 | EDADDONE UALL TO AC ON A Discounted STATULE E LANGE TO |
| | | 100 | SPARROW HALL 30 (F.S.S.) J. Pitoperald 10-10-8. F Linhy (5) JEHORE 29 (F.S.) 8 Elisto 9-10-3 |
| | 41 | 13.4 | JEHURT 29 (1-2) 8 ENSON 9-TU-1 |
| 1 | 12 | -PP1 | TRA SOLDIER 31 (C.G.S) M Baraclough 10-10-2 . R Bappin |
| | 13 | -P25 | OLE OLE 67 (F,S) Mrs E Massarop 11-10-0 |
| | Й | 5-70 | -SHOOK POINT 29 (G) D Lamb 10-10-0 J Bertin |
| | | 944 | TM IN CLOVER 487 J Norton 8-10-0 |
| | | | KERMARE RIVER 39 (B) R Colleg 7-40-0 Mr 9 Thornion (6) |
| | | 4400 | DOI: 10 CO DE PROPERTO DE LA CONTROL DE LA C |
| | | | BANGHT DESTRY 39 J GALOR 6-10-0 |
| ŀ | ı Si | ster Ros | 29, 6-1 Rossian Caede, 7-1 Bels Aheed, 8-1 Hawesiy Citizen, Öle |
| | | | |

3.00 LEYBURN HANDICAP HURDLE

| | | | an) i 19/ |
|---|------|---------|--|
| | 1 | -406 | MASTER HYDE 38 (D.F.) W Stony 8-12-0 |
| | 5 | F-P0 | BEND SABLE 42 (D.F.S) F Storey 7-11-13 B Store |
| | - 1: | 400 | WINDSHIM BODY WE GIVED BY AL CHROMAN 10-11-11 |
| | | | Trino Promotion (i) |
| | - 4 | 1233 | MITTERAIC BG (D.BF.F) W Cusenglara 5-11-10. L McGrath (7 |
| | . 6 | - Miles | STAR SELECTION 29 (5) J Macha 6-11-6 E Hashard (8 |
| | 6 | /42- | SHAHERAM 427 (S) P Beaution 9-11-6 |
| | 7 | 584- | SHAHERAM 427 (S) P Beaumout 9-11-6 |
| | . 8 | 455 | ALL CLEAR 285 (D.G.S.) J Howard Johnson 6-11-4 D Partie |
| • | .5 | -516 | DEL PREND 47 (D.6) M. Hankstryd 6-11-3 A U10901 |
| | 10 | 2-10 | JEMBA PUDDLETRICK 39 (V.CD.6) A Sevent 6-17-7. Tibe |
| | 11 | 124- | MR MORIARTY 75F (CO.F) S Bowning 6-11-0 |
| | 12 | 3-00 | GRANDMAN 50 (S) D Market 6-10-10 D J More |
| | 13 | 05-P | |
| | 14 | 25-6 | BEAU MATELOT 12F (8) Miss M Militan 6-10-7 G Cahi |
| | 15 | 4631 | ROBSERA 38 (0.6) J Opton 6-10-6 |
| | 16 | OPP2 | SHETTENS MOON 45 (E.F.) F Jordan 5-10-5 |

3.30 SEAMER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

| ٧ | | | נון לוכיוו |
|---|-----|-------------|---|
| | 1 | 35-1 | THEN DE FAMILLE 29 (F.S.) J Quinn 7-12-0 |
| | 2 | 5121 | THIN FALLS SO (C.F.O.S.) & Moore 6-11-6 |
| | 3 | 31-1 | ARSEYLANDS 71 (F) J Houard Johnson 9-11-8 A S SING |
| | 4 | ДΡ | MONNAE FORTE 50 (6.5) J Adam 7-11-2 M Monnet |
| | - 5 | 223- | 1040W-140-140 322 (G) M Hammond 8-10-9 A Drobbir |
| | 6 | ЯLР | WORLD WITHOUT END 39 (S) M Somersby 8-10-0, D Parket |
| | 7 | -461 | CARBO'S BOY 33 (6) J Turner 7-10-5 W Fri |
| | 8 | DPP1 | BUSWORTH RELD 30 (B.CO.S) Mrs S Home-Huter 9-10-4 |
| | | | 30 France |
| | 9 | 53-U | CAMPTOSALPUS 40 D Alder 8-10-1 |
| | 18 | 24P- | MOST RICH 252P B Silson 9-10-0 6 Cabit |
| | 11 | 3060 | WEE WIZNED SH (F.G.S) M Barber 8-10-0 5 TAPAN (5) |
| | 12 | -4PP | BOSSYMOSS 29 (F) A Skeeps 8-10-0 T Eleg |
| | 13 | 4P02 | KAREMASTIMO 31 No. 5 Smith 6-10-0 Mr P Minray |
| | 14 | -600 | MAPIJESFORD 49 (G.S.) Mrs J Jordan 10-10-0 L, McGrath (7) |
| • | 15 | 3333 | KOLTULLA 39 Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 R Wildeson (7 |
| _ | | | D. a. Albandando C. a. Tario Calle T. I. Carbo's Con. B. S. Konne |

| Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Control | Cont 4.00 CATTERIOR MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT

| | | Anti-terment in the second sec |
|-----|-----|--|
| ACE | | ,361: 2m) (21) |
| 1 | 34 | BILLY BUCKSKIN 28 J Hortos 5-11-10 Nr R Thornton (5 |
| 2 | · 6 | BRANOSSY MONSTER 30 P Beaumon 5-11-10 T Happer (7 |
| 3 | ·R | EASTCLIFFE 95 W McKennin 5-11-10 |
| ă | | HELPERBY J Howard Johnson 5-11-10 G F Ryles (5) |
| - 6 | 0 | HUENTING SCANE SO C Grant 5-11-10 Hildred Bronzen (5 |
| ì | Ň | MOSAM 789 N Maron 7-13-10 S Harrorth (7) |
| 7 | n | PHAR SACKTHER 25 J Filmerald 5-11-11 |
| i. | ñ | RECCA 30 Deces Smith 5-11-10 R Burns (7) |
| ē | ā | RECCA 30 Dears Smith 5-11-10 |
| 10 | - | STORESBY & Moore 5-11-10 |
| 13 | | SUNSTRUCE R McDorald 5-11-10 C McCommack (7 |
| | | THE STUFFED PUFFOI 30 L Lango 5-11-10 Jardine (7 |
| 12 | Ϋ́ | THE STUTTED PUTTED OF LEADING OF 1-10 I HARMING TO |
| 13 | 9 | TIDAL RACE 46 J Haldane 5-11-10 |
| 14 | ଼ ହ | MISS FORTBUA 46 J Curis 5-11-5 |
| 15 | ٠. | SEVEN POUR SEVEN Mrs I. Williamson 6-11-5 S Taylor (2 |
| 16 | Ö | SUPPLEME TARGET 266 Mrs M Reveloy 5-11-5 G Lea (3 |
| 17 | Ð | THE MAICKLE COUNTE 28 J J O'NEW 6-11-5 R McGrach (5 |
| 18 | | 41(1, 140) (OPO P Seaumoni 4-10-17 B 6(1449) (/ |
| 19 | | HEMOTERS NOW IN Makes 4.10-17 |
| 20 | | JO LIGHTHORS & Clistic 4-10-12 |
| 21 | | BUDDLEA J Turner 4-10-7 |
| 51 | | PROPERTY IN THE THE PARTY IN TH |

Chepstow honour for O'Sullevan

year, is to have a race named after him at

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANKERS: A Sinceles, 5 missions from 12 namess, 41.7%, T Essianby, 3 from 8, 37.5%; K Morque, 13 from 63, 30.2%; J J Chaine, 6 from 25, 24.0%; Mas M Reveley, 18 from 83, 21.7%; J Fitzgenald, 11 from 51, 21.6%; J Nordon, 3 from 15, 12.8%; L Lungo, 8 from 43, 18.6%.

JOCKETS: A S Smith. 18 winners from 51 ridge, 3 from 43, 18.6%.

JOCKETS: A S Smith. 18 winners from 51 ridge, 31.4%; T Eley, 3 from 12 25.6%; E Callegtion, 6 from 29, 20.7%; W Eyr, 4 from 26, 15.4%, D Byrne. B from 41, 14.5%, A Dobbia, 13 from 51, 14.3%; 6 Gabil, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

year, is to have a race manner and min at could name this race at retirement year, he said he w.
The £20,000-added Peter O'Sullevan Novices' Hurdle for five-year-olds, run over two farrant added: "Previous miles, will be televised as part of the BBC's Grandstand programme that afternoon, with O'Sullevan providing the commentary, just Promising (1983):

We'll be hoping in on March 8."

PETER O'SULLEVAN, who is to retire as the BBC's senior racing commentator later this us over the years, and when I asked him if we could name this race after him in his retirement year, he said he would be delighted

Farrant added: "Previous winners include Killiney (who took the first running in 1971), Border Incident (1975), Gaye Brief (1982), Very Promising (1983) and Challenger Du Luc (1985). We'll be hoping for another good quality line-

White has licence application refused

BY CARL EVANS

THE season should start this weekend but you could forgive leading amateur, Richard White, for wishing otherwise.

trainer Philip Hobbs, suffered convulsions in the yard last August. Under the Jockey Club's medical guidelines, he is considered a risk to himself and other riders and was told only on Thursday that he cannot reapply for a licence until one year after the incident.

News of his misfortune comes in the same week that Jonothan Lower, a diabetes sufferer, has been given hope that he can ride again and White is equally optimistic. "I have to get on with it," White said. "I have had no repeat of the problem and brain scans showed there was nothing wrong with me. They proved I did

not have epilepsy."
In another test, a doctor discovered that White's neck and pelvis were so misaligned, the result of various falls, that the problem may have been caused by a trapped nerve.

The news could not have come at a worse time for White, who won on Dublin Flyer at Wincanton three years ago while working for Tim Forster. He had a strong squad for the hunter chase season and was due to ride Ryming Cuplet in the Cheltenham Foxhunters'.

His mother, Tessa, trains nine pointers in North Devon and he had an arrangement to ride for Jenny Pidgeon and Victor Dartnall. The latter had booked White to ride high-class Chilipour at Barbury Castle tomorrow, the weekend's only surviving fixture after two other meetings were cancelled because of frost.

Jamie Jukes will deputise on Chilipour for a stable which also runs last season's most successful pointer, Phar Too Touchy, in the mares' race with owner, Beccy Francis, in the saddle.

Urubande has pace to master Nicholson's challengers

هكذا من الأصا.

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

DAVID NICHOLSON sends a six-strong team to Leopardstown tomorrow with two, Zabadi and Escartefigue, attempting to give Britain a second successive AIG Europe Champion Hurdle.

Last year's winner, Collier Bay, misses the race because his trainer. Jim Old, does not consider him forward enough to travel, and fitness after the recent cold snap will also be a

concern to Nicholson. The ground is too fast in November.

England so I have to send them somewhere," Nicholson said. Escartefigue has not run

since finishing second to Alderbrook at Ayr in April and would be better suited by softer ground, while Zabadi will be hard pressed to repeat his half-length supremacy over Urubande at Newbury in

Urubande has been deserted by Charlie Swan in favour of Theatreworld, who has won three times at Leopardstown but rarely lived up to his connections' hopes when tried in the highest class. Given that Urubande endured a difficult journey to Newbury, he is worth a bet on home turf.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

2.40 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE

| (Gra | de I. £3 | 4,000· 2m) (7 runners) | |
|------|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 514123- | COCKNEY LAD 20 (G.S) (D Daly) H Liends 8-11-10 | R Hughes |
| 2 | | | P Carberry Datawoody |
| 4 | 531432- | ESCARTERGUE 274 (S) (D Mercer) D Nucholson (GB) 5-11-6 | Bodgwater |
| | 011331- | | C Swan |
| 7 | 20306-0 | NOTCOMPLATENCEUT & (G.S) (Nas C Moore) P Mollins 8-11-8 | |
| | | | |

This is the acid test for the Sun Alliance Hurdle winner to determine whether he has the pace for two miles in top company, although Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, is confident Uruhande has the neces-

sary speed. Nicholson's unbeaten novice chaser, Mulligan, faces a stiff task against Danoli in the Bailey's Arkle Perpetual Challenge Cup and, despite the trip being short of Danoli's best, Mulligan may find the lob beyond him.

Call it A Day looks better than Nicholson's other runner, Kadi, in the Foxrock Handicap Chase, but may have to settle for second to Arctic Weather, a good win-

ner at Navan six days ago. Namoodaj, formerly with Alec Stewart on the Flat, makes his hurdling debut in the Waterford Crystal Hurdle but his inexperience can be exploited by Highly Motivated, who was brought down by his stable companion, Evriza.

LINGFIELD PARK

1,25 Rasayal. 1.55 Invocation. 2,25 Hever Golf Charger. 2,55 Globetrotter. 3,25 Sooty Tern. 3,55 Fort Knox.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

.25 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP

494: 117 4() (12 INTHERS)

12-4 MONTONE 15 (V.C.F.G. 9) Jordons 7-11-7 ... M Manmah 7

50-0 SCHEMP'S OCCASION 9 R Alebrasi 4-11-1 ... J Tizzard (5) 11

51-2 RASAYEL 9 (C.D.F.G.) P.Gars 7-10-11 ... W McLaughta (5) 2

086- OLTSTAVED WEL COME 108 (D.P.) M Hoyen, 5-10-9 Miss Y Hoyens 8

804- ELA MAN HOWA? (C.F.G.) A Badry 6-10-8 Miss 8 L Haldmason (5) 1

604- CAPTANI MARNALARE 14 (C.F.G.) Toron 5-10-3 Miss 9 Jones 10

007- THORMANIA 180 (E.G.) Badger 5-10-0 ... D Badger (5) 2

008- OUT TORON MAN 183 (E.P.) Badger 5-10-0 ... D Badger (5) 2

008- SOUMANA 181 (8.D.F.G.) R Home 7-9-13 ... T McCarden 12

008- DORT DROP BOMBS 36 (V.D.F.G.) Thore 9-4-11 Miss. P. Jones 8

250: ALDSAU 371 J Californ 10-9-8 ... Miss Enson Garley (5) 4

009- SARUM 38 (C.F.B.) Long 11-8-5 ... T Waters (6) 3

BERNAL 9-2 De Man Howa 5-1 Montons, Sourn's, Occasion, 8-1 pillars.

1.55 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES

| L | 니 | 11.0 | 4) (8) |
|---|---|------|---|
| | 1 | 000- | ROBO MAGIC 29 (CD.F.G) L Montrous Hall 5-9-7 F Lyetch (3) |
| | 2 | -231 | KRYSTAL MAX 9 (CD.F.B) J Cabinan 4-8-13 D Smeaney (5) |
| | 3 | | THE FRISKY FARMER 2 (D.F.S) W G M Turns 4-8-11 T Sprain |
| | 4 | 40-0 | LORD SKY 10 (D.F.G.S) A Babey 6-8-0 |
| | 5 | 80-4 | NORLING 14 (0,F.5) K Commonwer-Brown 7-8-9 C Manda |
| | 6 | 9-10 | INVOCATION 2 (CD.F.G) G L Moore 10-6-7 A Clerk |
| | 7 | D-43 | LET BOY 9 (C.D.F.A) & L. Moore B-8-7 |
| | 8 | | SILENT SYMPHONY Mrs & Williams 5-8-2 |
| | 9 | 90-6 | MASS PICKPOCKET 16 (C,8) Mass & Refusion 4-8-0 |

9-4 Krystal Max. 4-1 Let Boy, 9-2 invocation, 6-1 The Frisky Farmer, 8-1 Lord Sky, Northe, Alies Pictrocket, 10-1 others,

COURSE SPECIALISTS JOCKEYS: J Wayer, 79 winners trow 377 rules, 27 PS; D Griditis, 8 from 37, 16.74. D Michaewa, 17 Iron, 110, 15.75. S Whiteorth, 32 from 214, 15.0%, Lifes J Feilden, 3 telm 20, 15.0%

| | | 3-Y-O: £2,700: 61) (6) |
|-----|------|--|
| 1 | | BLUES MAGIC 11 Bell 9-0 B Faulion (6 |
| 2 | 32-0 | COUNTLESS TOMES 14 (BF) W Mar 3-0 A Cha |
| | | HARMONY IN RED 11 C Divise 9-0 M Weghan |
| - 4 | 205 | HEVER GOLF CHARGER 53 ! Naughton 9-0 J Weaks |
| 5 | | ELIZA 88 Lord Huntingston 8-9 |
| 6 | D- | SHE'S DAWAN 102 P Liuchell 8-9 A Whelan (3 |

| | - | | Desired | | | | | | |
|----|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------|----------|----------|----|
| -1 | Hermon | in Red, | 41 Eliza. | Shir: Da | Mar. 5-1 | Heles | Golf (2) | mger, 8- | |
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| 3. | Y-0: £ | 2,384. | 1m 2f) | (4) | | | | | |
| | | ~~~ | | 4 10 6 | 4 4 6 Labor | -t R | | | al |

| 3.25 | CECIL ALDIN HANDICAP (£3,438: 1m) (10) |
|--------|--|
| 1 311- | MR NEVERBAND 38 (CD.F.G) & L. Moore 7-10-0 S Windworth |
| 2 000- | OUSEDNESHER 53 (F) G L Moont 5-9-12 F Lynch (3) |
| 3 550- | ROBELLION 86 (V.CD.F.O) D Amuthred L-9-6 D Harrison |

9-4 km Neverment, 6-1 Memeter, Sooty Tern, 7-1 Ki Chi Sagu, 8-1 others.

3.55 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY

| 111 | hirt | F (Fille): 13,00 (, (1) (13) |
|-----|------|---|
| 1 | 851- | SPEEDY CLASSIC 29 (CD.F.G) M Heaton-Elli: 8-10-0 A Clark 13 |
| 2 | 610- | GREATEST 29 (B.CD.F.G) Mes 6 kalleney 6-8-8 5 Sanders 3 |
| 3 | 940- | BLUF FLYER 29 (B,C,D,F,G) A Ingram 4-9-7 I Wester 9 |
| 4 | | TWEN CREDIS 15 (CD.F.G) V Some 6-9-3 C Ruser 8 |
| 5 | -031 | SEA DAMZIG 2 (CD,6) J Bridger 4-9-0 (4ex) . D Harmson 11 |
| 6 | 52-1 | STEP ON DEGAS 14 (CD.F.S) M Femerston-Godley 4-8-13 |

13 63-4 BARBASH 14 (V.D.BF.F.S) P Lones 5-7-10 . . . D Wright 12

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

50 SPORT

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Arsenal's impressive FA Cup third-round replay victory at Sunderland on Wednesday proved that there is life after fan Wright, and, for that matter, John Hartson. It was one of those unusual games in which no Arsenal player was sent off, and Dennis Bergkamp, soon to be suspended himself, scored a remarkable goal. If Arsenal do manage to get Hristo Stoichkov, the combustible Bulgaria forward, on loan from Barcelona, who will drop out of the

DERBY COUNTY

run of six matches without a win.

Jim Smith, the manager, was asked at the pre-season photocall whether the squad numbers allocated to his players gave a clue to his first choice XI. "No. but there is a lad at No 17 who is a certainty," Smith replied. Since then Matt Carbon has been pushed out of the side by Paul McGrath, but injuries to Stimac and Yates have created a vacancy in the defence for the next month and Carbon plays at Chelsea today as Derby attempt to end a

ASTON VILLA

With Villa's midfield riven by injuries - Taylor and Draper are out - Sasa Curcic, the disaffected Yugoslav, may return to the fold out of necessity against Liverpool this afternoon. "Something has clearly upset him," Brian Little, the manager, said. I'm trying to get to the root of the problem and I've got a rough idea what it is. Hopefully, we'll get the whole thing sorted out soon." A physically fit and psychologi-cally sound Curcic is vital if Villa are to surviye at Anfield.

EVERTON

Claus Thomsen, Everton's new signing from Ipswich, will make his debut tomorrow. Where is another matter. "Could be midfield, it could be at centreback, or as one of a back three, depending on how we play." Joe Royle, the manager, said yesterday. Everton's injury list is showing few signs of improving, with Ebbrell and Parkinson still missing. Short was able to train, however, and with Wasson, Barrett and Unsworth back in contention, Dunne may step down.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

comes as no surprise: Bright has been at odds with David Pleat, the

manager, for some time. Back into the

squad comes Wayne Collins, the summer

signing from Crewe Alexandra whose

injury early in the season coincided with the club's dramatic slump in form. The return of Collins has given Pleat hope that

Wednesday can push themselves into contention at the right end of the table.DM

SUNDERLAND

County. Meanwhile Lionel Perez, the

French goelkeeper, aims to end the interest shown by Peter Reid, the manager, in Shay Given, the Blackburn reserve goalkeeper, by impressing against the visitors from

Ewood Park today. Jan Eriksson, newly

signed from Sweden, is expected to make

his debut in central defence while Alex Rae

and Martin Smith are poised to return.

Sunderland have lost Sam

Allardyce, their youth develop-

ment officer, who has been

appointed manager of Notts

Mark Bright will leave Wednesday in a £80,000 move to the

Swiss club Sion this week. It

BLACKBURN ROVERS

فكذا من الأصل

Tony Parkes returned from Italy with the football equivalent of a school merit badge after visiting Sven Göran Eriksson, Blackburn's new manager. The Swede, in charge at Sampdoria, will not take control at Ewood Park until the end of the season, but he has given advice to the caretaker manager, as if it was needed. "He told us he was pleased with the way things are going, and to keep on the same,"
Parkes said. "We discussed transfer targets, but no one will be leaving."

DM

LEEDS UNITED

Tony Yeboah's days at Elland Road appear to be numbered. Controversially, he turned out for Ghana last weekend de-spite being unfit for Leeds. After his return on Thursday he declared himself unfit to take part in a practice game with Scarhor-ough, Halle, Molenaar and Palmer all played and will return at West Ham after missing the cup-tie at Crystal Palace. Lee Sharpe also played, scoring the goal in a 1-0 wm, but Dorigo is again troubled by a hamstring injury.

PB

HOW THEY STAND

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CHELSEA

Roberto di Matteo had some encouraging words for Gianha Vialli his Italian compatriot, who seems likely to begin the game against Derby on the bench once more and is not pleased about it. But while Hughes and Zola have unquestion ably struck up a line partnership in attack. Zola has been man-marked out of the game on too many occasions. Rund Gullit, the manager, says that this should give more space to the other players, but, in practice, that has not been happening.

LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the manager is likely to make further addifions to his squad next week having signed Matt Elliott, a central defender, from Oxford United for £1.6 million, a club record, two days ago. "If he was going to be impressed it was with the mumber of players I said I wanted to bring in." O'Neill said Elliott makes his debut against Wimbledon today but Steve Walsh, recovered from a hermia operation, now requires surgery on his knee and is out for three more weeks.

COVENTRY CITY Callers to Highfield Road early on Wednesday, before the FA Cup tie against Woking, were told there was no problem with

the pitch and that no inspection was planned. Cue mass exodus from Surrey, ZI coaches on an ultimately fruitless trek.
Gerald Ashby, the referee also rang the
club and yet, despite being informed that all was well, he felt he had no option, an hour before kick-off, but to postpone the game. How much blame were Coventry willing to accept? Correct. Not a frozen sausage. RK

LIVERPOOL

Roy Evans, the manager, has something of a headache as he ponders a game that will have a big impact on the positions at

the top of the table. John Barnes, Neil Ruddock and Phil Babb are injured and Michael Thomas suspended. It means Jamie Redknapp returns after a month-long exile through injury, and the young Jamie Carragher, 19, will make his full debut. Liverpool must return to winning ways at home if they are to secure their first championship in seven years. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

After the failures of their threeman central defence against Tottenham, United are likely to resume normal service at Coventry today. Irwin returns to play at left back, with Johnsen and Pallister likely to play as centre backs, after both trained all week. Nicky Butt is missing from the midfield again, but Philip Neville is back after a bout of glandular fever. "I feel as if there's nothing wrong with me," he said, although he is still wearing a heart monitor during training.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Acutely aware that his side have managed just one win in their last 16 league games, Bryan Robson, the manager, gambles with the inclusion of two new signings, Italian centre half Giantuca Festa and Slovakian left back Vladimir Kinder, against Sheffield Wednesday today. Seven points adrift at the foot of the table after having three points deducted for failing to fulfil their December 21 fixture at Blackburn, Robson's men are in desperate need of victory.

LINERDOO

2 Manchester Utd. 3 Arsenal.....

Wimbledon

Aston Villa,

8 Everion & Tottenham

13 Derby 14 Blackburn

16 Leiceste

Covertry

West Ham. Notim Forest

1 Shetheld Wer

Sunderland

NEWCASTLE UNITED

If Kenny Dalglish needed any confirmation of the scale of his new club, it came on his first official day in charge. Dalglish called an informal meeting of the local media to discuss access arrangements. On his first full day at Riackburn, three reporters turned up, and even the local evening newspaper man didn't bother. Yesterday, though, Dalglish waded through a scrum of fans to be greeted by the expectant faces of at least 40 members of the media. Welcome to the goldfish bowl. DM.

WOWW

WWLWD:

DLWLD DLWLD

WLDWW

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The proposed takeover remains as foggy as ever, but, existing squad may be good enough to keep Forest in the Premiership after all, subject to the permanent signing of Nigel Clough. This week, the only suggestion that problems lie ahead was made by Nigel's dad, who doubts whether Pearse can carry his under the caretaker managewho doubts whether Pearce can carry his huge workload for more than six weeks. "Anything longer than that and I will doubt his sanity." Clough Sr. said. RH

SOUTHAMPTON Benali and Slater begin sus-

pensions today, but Dryden could return after injury and Le Tissier may be in the starting line-up as Southampton look forward, with good reason, to the visit of Newcastle United, who have lost all three of their games at The Dell since returning to the Premiership. Graeme Sources, the management of the control of the co er, telephoned Kenny Dalglish, his former Liverpool and Scotland team-mate, earlier in the week to wish him good luck - but only from tomorrow onwards.

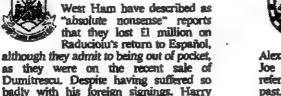
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham have played only twice this year, losing to Manchester United in league and cup, yet have showed a lew signs of possible recovery. "If we can get a

good run together, we can still qualify for Europe, Colin Calderwood, the Scottand defender, said. The club yesterday un-nounced plans to install a seaged-Jumbatron" screen at White Hart Lane, in the North Stand, which should at least give the fans another perspective on how the team is performing.

WIMBLEDON

Ekoku and Kimble are under treatment for the visit to Leicester, as is Gayle, who missed the match at Crewe Alexandra on Tuesday, where remarks by



as they were on the recent sale of Dumitrescu. Despite having suffered so badly with his foreign signings. Harry Redknapp, the manager, is still thought to rate Pierre van Hooijdonk, Celtic's Dutch striker, above Dean Holdsworth, of Wimbledon, as he continues his search for a goalscorer.

WEST HAM UNITED

Joe Kinnear about Paul Danson, the referee, were an untypical blast from the past, according to Terry Burton, his assistant. "Joe has calmed himself down. We thought we were unfairly treated last season, but Joe realises now that things have to be said through the right channels," he said.

peon, Filcherd Hobson, Nick Szczepenik, letick: Julian Desborough Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russel Keith Film, David Mackdook





CHELSEA (from): F Grodas, K Hitchcock, D Patrescu, F Leboeuf, E Johnsen, R Gulitt, A Myers, C Burley, R di Matteo, F Sinclair, D Wise, M Nicholls, E Newton, N Clement, P Hughes, G Zola, G Vialli,



in a solar tangen is on

SOUTHAMPTON V

COVENTRY CITY V

MANCHESTER UNITED

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 0-0, 1-0, 1-4, 2-2, 0-0, 0-1, 0-1, 2-3, 0-4.

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, L Deish, P Williame, P Tetter, E Jess, G McAllister, J Salako, N Whatan, K Richardson, B Borrows, J Pitan, W Boland, R Geneux, A Willis, S Shitton,

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmelchel, G. Neville, R. Johnsen, G. Paffeler, D. Irwin, D. Beckhern, R. Keane, P. Scholes, R. Giggs, E. Cardons, O. G. Solskjær, A. Cols, B. McCleir, K. Poborsky, C. Casper, B. Uso der Gor

NEWCASTLE UNITED

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 1-1, 1-0, --, --, --, 2-1, 3-1, 1-0. HOW THEY LINE UP SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, R Dryden, K Monfrou, C Lundelwarm, U van Golobal, N Maddison, E Berkovic, M Oakley, D Hughes, M le Tissier, E Ostenstad, S Basham, D Beasant, M Robinson, J Magilton, S Charlion.

TICKETS: Sold out

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Histop, P Smicels, S Watson, W Sarton, J Beresford, D Peacock, R Effett, L Clark, D Batty, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Fardinand, D Ginola, K Gillespie, F Asprilla, P Kitson.

MONDAY

SUNDERLAND Y BLACKBURN ROVERS TICKETS: Sees available

LEICESTER CITY V

WIMBLEDON

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, --, --, --, --, --, --, 3-4, --; -

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (Irom): K. Keller, S. Grayson, P. Kaarnark, M. Elliott, S. Prior, I. Marshell, S. Campbell, G. Perker, N. Lennon, M. Izzet, S. Taylor, S. Claridge, E. Healtey, M. Robine, S. Wilson, J. Lewrence, N. Lewie, C. Hill, M. Izzet, R. Lewie, R.

WINBLEDON (from): N Sulfiven, K Curninghern, A Kingble, V Jones, C Parry, B McAllister, O Leonheirdsen, R Earle, A Clarke, J Goodmen, M Geyle, E Eschu, N Ardley, D Blackwell, D Holdsworth, M Herford, P Fear, A Reseas, B Murphy.

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, --, 2-0, 0-1, --, 1-1, --, --, --, --, HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, G. Hall, D. Kulotok, R. Ord, A. Melville, D. Kelly, D. Williams, P. Bracewell, A. Rae, M. Grey, J. Mullin, M. Smith, M. Bridges, C. Russell, J. Eriksson, P. Heckingbottom, S. Aleton;

BLACKEURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenne, G le Saux, C Hendry, H Berg, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, G Flittroff, J Wilcox, C Sulton, K Gelfacher, G Donis, S Gleen, N Merker, G Pentrop, butters and

WEST HAM UNITED V

LEEDS UNITED TICKETS: Strats augiliable

10-YEAR RECORD: -, -, -, -, 0-1, -, 1-3, -, 0-1, 0-0, 1-2 HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mikiosko, T. Bescher, M. Rieper, S. Bilic, J. Dicks, M. Hughes, D. Williamson, J. Monour, J. Bishop, S. Jones, H. Porlino, S. Potis, M. Newell, S. Lazzaridis, L. Seeley, F. Lampard,

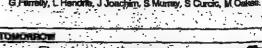


ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Sold out

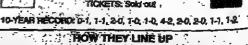
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, -, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 3-2, 3-0 HOW THEY LINE UP

UNERPOOL (front): D. James, R. Jones, S. Herfenes, M. Wilgit, J. Carregher, D. Matteo, J. McAteer, S. McManeman, J. Remes, P. Berger, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, M. Kennedy, A. Warner, L. James, M. Owen. ASTON VILLA (from): M. Bosnich, F. Netson, A. Witght, D. Etiogu, G. Soutigate, C. Dier, A. Townsend, T. Johnson, D. Yorke, S. Miloseik, G. Ferrelly, L. Hendrie, J. Joachim, S. Murrey, S. Curcic, M. Oakes.





EVERTON TICKETS: Sold out .



ARSENAL (trom): C.Sparnen, R.Parfour, A.Adesne, M.Keown, S.Bould, N. Winserburg, P. Merson, D. Plett, P. Vieire, D. Bergkerno, J. Wildh, S. Hughec, S. Morrow, M. Bose, P. Shaw, J. Lukic, A. Linighen.

EVERTON (nois): N. Southall, P. Genrard, E. Barrett, A. Hinchellie. D. Unsworth, T. Priedran, D. Watson, C. Short, A. Kanchelsikis, J. Bosel, A. Grant, J. Paridrison, D. Ferguson, G. Speed, G. Stuart, M. Branch, P. Rideour, M. Hattiger, C. Thomsen, N. Barntoy, R. Dunne.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

10.45pm BBC :- Match of the Day (highlights): including Livergoot's Auton Villa

Spin Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday

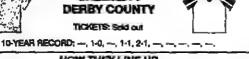
Aradian v Existent (May)

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night West Ham United viceds United (five)



CHELSEA V DERBY COUNTY

TICKETS: Said out



HOW THEY LINE UP

DERSY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowell, P McGrath, M Cerbon, J Laursen, L Carsley, A Asanovic, D Powell, C Powell, D Sturridge, A Ward, R Willems, S Rynn, C Dailly, M Taylor, R van der Laan.



MIDDLESBROUGH V SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 0-1, --, 0-2, --, 1-1, --, --, 3-1. HOW THEY LINE UP MIDDLESBROUGH (from) B Roberts, C Fleming, D Whyte, S Vickers, G Festa, V Kinder, Emerson, R Mustoe, Juninho, F Ravanelli, C Blackmore, M Beck, P Stamp, J A Fjortoft, C Liddle.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from)* K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge, G Hyde, S Nicol, G Whittingham, A Booth, R Humphreys, D Hirst, R Binker, W Collins, O Trustfull, S Cakes, O Donaldson, M Ctarke

LEADING SCORERS

16: A Shearer (Newcastle United), I Wright (Arsenal). 12: D Yorke (Aston Ville). 11: R Fowler (Liverpool). 10: L Ferdinand (Newcastie United), O G Solskjaar (Menchester United), 9: E Ekoku (Wimbledon), M la Tissier (Southempton), F Ravenetti (Middlesbrough), C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers). 8: D Dublin (Coventry City), M Gayle (Wimbledon), G Vialli (Chelses).

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

5-4: Manchester United, 3-1: Liverpool, 9-2: Newcastle United, 7-12: Arsenal, 25-1: Aston Villa, 25-1: Chalase, \$3-1: Wimbledon Odds supplied by Ladbrokes The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership

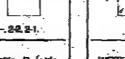


TOMORROW

NOTTINGHAM FOREST V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TICKETS: Seals available 10-YEAR RECORD: 26, 30, 1-2, 1-3, 1-2, 1-3, 2-1, --, 2-2, 2-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fettis, D. Lyttle, A.I. Haeland, C. Cooper, N. Jarkan, S. Chettie, S. Peerce, D. Privilips, C. Bart-Williams, S. Germali, C. Allen, I. Woan, K. Campbell, D. Saunders,

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, R Fox, E Sheringham, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, J Dozzel, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, E Beardsen, A Nielsen, R Allen, J. Scales, N Fann, R Vega.



LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyr; M Beaney, G Kelly, R Jobson, L Racebe, C Parmer, D Welfierall, L Sharpe, R Welface, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Plust, B Deane, A Gray, P Bessley, A Couzens, M Tinkler, J Pemberton, I Harte, M Jackson, G Halle, R Moleneir.

B Roy, S Blatherwick, N Clough.

"ENU SARKE SARKE STHI



Ravanelli celebrates scoring for his beloved Juventus in typically ecstatic fashion. He may return to Italy after his unhappy exile in England. Photograph: Dusan Vranic

Ravanelli poised to bolt again

abrizio Ravanelli exploded again this week Middles-brough were doomed Rele was no hope of salvation. It was all truly tragic. Just as it had been, for somewhat different reasons, when he left Juventus last July.

Come un fulmine dal ciel sereno (like a bolt from the blue). Ravanelli used the phrase twice in his torrid and dramatic summer of 1996. The first time somewhat self-indulgently, the second with good reason.

Parame

The first occasion came with the Italy team at the start of the European championship. Ravanelli was trailing clouds of glory - even if the clouds would prove to lack a silver lining. He it was, after all, who had scored the Juventus goal the previous month in Rome's Olympic Stadium, in the European Cup final against Ajax. Scored it with an extraordinary shot from the sharpest of angles, after a blunder in the

> He arrived in England — where he would soon; so unexpectedly, return - with an injury to his Achilles tendon. He was clearly unfit to play in the opening match against Russia and Arrigo Sacchi, the Italy manager, left him out, provoking Ravanelli's irrational outburst. How could they do this to him?

In the event, with Russia beaten, Sacchi, surely against his better judgment, brought on Ravanelli as a late substitute. Twice Ravanelli had chances to increase Italy's lead, twice

only by their bearing on affairs at the business end of

the table, but by the relation-ship between the protagonists. Kenny Dalglish hardly

needs any more spice added to

his first match officially in

control of Newcastle United

but, against Southampton, be

finds himself in direct opposi-

tion to Graeme Souness, an

old friend from their playing

but he was. Could Sacchi have been intimidated? He made five unforced changes, Ravanelli struggled again, and the Italians lost. Out they went Early in July, Ravanelli was at home in his native Perugia, where he

had begun his career, preparing to go on holiday. Suddenly, he was summoned to Turin by Juventus, to be told by Roberto Bettega, himself a former Juve star and now vice president, that he would be transferred to Middlesbrough for £7 million. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was there. It was the second time Ravanelli had been struck by a bolt from the blue.

In the midst of his embittered lamentations, he might have reflected that his fate was sealed in the 77th minute of that European Cup final. It was then that Marcello Lippi, Juve's manager, with whom Ravanelli had often had his ups and downs, decided

to substitute him.
With words and insulting gesture,
Ravanelli made his feelings known.
"He told Lippi to go to hell once too often," an Italian critic wrote.

Rayanelli was now distraught. "I'd be a hypocrite if I said I wasn't sorry," he said. "I am very distressed. I'm Juventus through to my soul, so you can understand my state of mind at the moment. It's terrible. They chuck me out like someone who isn't any use. I understood they had no more faith in me. And I know whom to thank. Obviously, Marcello Lippi.

"I thought I was a point of reference for Juve," he said. "I feel

the man who succeeded him

the match of the day. The

theme, from all three - and

from Villa for that matter - is

Southampton's embitions

are those of survival, but

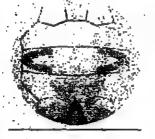
Liverpool, Newcastle and Vil-

la all know that defeat could

that victory is imperative.

RAVANELLI

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By Brian Glanville

Not just that. When Gianluca Vialli left to join Chelsea, I felt sorry — but also a touch of pride. I told myself they'd make me captain. I was living in another world."

Still, there was Robson - and there was the money: Perhaps not as much as the reputed £42,000 a week but infinitely more than the £350,000 a year he was getting from Juventus. Of Robson, he said: "He enchanted me. A man of great charisma."

The enchantment, as we know, did not endure. Just a few weeks ago, on Italian television, Ravanelli was let-ting fly at what he perceived at the

Dalglish's comeback turns old friends into foes

time. As for his own training, he had to ask Juventus for regular pro-

grammes, to stay in shape.
Italian football journalists would hardly have been surprised; they were well used to Ravanelli's outbursts, not least when things went wrong at Juventus and he found himself in camp with the Italy team. "When things go well, he's fine," says a Turin sports journalist, "but he can't take criticism of any kind."

A psychological quirk, a basic lack of self-confidence, or a consequence of Ravanelli's hard early years as a professional? Who can say. Certainly his path to the top was not easy.

Italian clubs will pick up promis-ing players as young as 13. Ravanelli, by contrast, slogged away for years in the lower divisions. Perugia are now a Serie A club, but not when he played for them. He was powerful and brave, but far from the alert, sophisticated, intelligent player he would in time become.

He had three seasons in the third division with Perugia, who sold him to Avellino. Ravanelli could not settle in the southern town and, to the ire of the Serie B club, left for another third division season with Casertana. He was improving all the time, however, and when he moved to Reggiana, in Serie B, he took off. So much so that, in 1992, when he was 23, Juventus bought him.

Merely as a reserve, it was supposed, but injuries to men like Vialli gave him his chance and he surprised against the Czechs, in Manchester. Sove could give up someone like me. sneered, could run and run, but had in the championship, five against wear it?

game, plus the goal that helped to win the European Cup.

Nicknamed La Penna Bianca (the White Feather) for his prematurely white hair, he is a modest, emotional, impulsive man and his celebration shirt pulled over his head after scoring - became famous.

Today he plays for Middlesbrough against Sheffield Wednesday and next Wednesday he will expect to be in Italy's attack against Northern ireland in Palermo, under the new managership of Cesare Maidini.

A year ago, against Wales on a flooded pitch in Terni that he deemed unplayable, Ravanelli put on an astonishing exhibition of strength and skill, scoring one goal, making another. He talked endlessly, delighted not only by his performance, but by the fact that he had brought a hostile crowd on to his side.

Resentful of a star who came from nearby Perugia, the fans initially jeered him. By the end, they were not whistling but cheering him. "I felt an emotion of incredible intensity," he said. "The real fans shouted 'Clowns!" to those on the terraces. I reacted and increased my efforts a hundredfold. If I was already feeling good, from then on, I felt great."

Just as he did when he began his

Premiership career at Middlesbrough with a hat-trick against Liverpool. Since then, he has had a curate's egg of a season, like the team itself. Meanwhile, it seems most unlikely he will be on Teesside next he failed. There seemed no way he betrayed, as a professional and as a inadequacies of Middlesbrough's Juve with his dynamic form. In his season. He wants to go back to could be picked for the second game, man. I never thought for a moment training. British footballers, he four seasons there, he scored 41 goals. Juventus, but would Marcello Lippi season. He wants to go back to

here are greater than at half a

dozen clubs." he said. "In fact.

I think the fans are, if any-

thing, more forgiving than

little more, then we are capa-

ble of doing a lot better. We

can try to realise everyone's

That may be the same old

careful Daiglish, more innu-

endo than straight talk, but

victory this afternoon could

yet suggest that it will be the

same old Dalglish at the end

of the season — holding aloft a

championship trophy.

greatest ambition."

Beer match that left captain in the lurch

مكذا من الأصل

IF YOU want to get thrown out of Sydney Cricket Ground. you have got to do something pretty good. "I know nothing about urinating," Jason Tay-lor, captain of North Sydney Bears rugby league team, said. "But there was an incident with some tomato sauce where the blokes rubbed it into one another. Some of the sauce got on a bloke's T-shirt. He got upset and I can

understand that. "A bloke three rows back threw some beer over me. shouldn't have reacted, but I stood up. When I did so the crowd started shouting out my name. That prompted the security guards and they said i had to go." It was all a misunderstanding, you see. "It looked terrible on TV, like I'd been drinking and spilling beer all over myself all night." Perish la pensée! "I regret now I went to the cricket." Taylor has been told by the local Wyong council that his services as Australia Day ambassador will no longer be required tomorrow week.

Waugh at a loss

I would like you all to join with me in mourning the sadness of Steve Waugh, that most likeable of Australian cricketers. He has managed to set a record for Australia cricket: he has taken part in 11 consecutive one-day defeats. It began with the pasting from (tee-hee) Sri Lanka, in the Singer Cup, in September. Waugh then missed two wins over West Indies with a groin strain, but rejoined the side in time for five defeats in India. Then followed the girnmicky World Series Cup in Australia and Waugh was there for five more defeats against Pakistan and West Indies. Australia how one grieves — therefore miss out on the World Series final for the first time in 17 years. "I'm well aware of it." Waugh said when asked about his achievement. "When teams get into the habit of losing, it's hard to get out of it." Some English people have noticed that too, actually.

Gasp.... Quick,) open its of mouth!

Fisherman's tale

Time for a fish story. One of the most ancient and revered records in American fishing lore is the 41-year-old mark for the smallmouth bass. The poor beast was yanked out of Dale Hollow Reservoir, Kentucky, in 1955 by Dave Hayes and it weighed an amazing llib 1502. But now an affidavit from his guide on the occa-sion, John Barlow, has come to light. Barlow, it seems, stuffed 31b of lead weights into the fish before it was officially weighed. But he felt guilty afterwards and filed the affidavit — which was promptly ignored by the reservoir overseers. Now it has

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

turned up again. Barlow, 80, confirms its veracity and Hayes's catch has been struck from the records. Hayes said: Well, I've held the record for 41 years and had my fun. I won't lose any sleep over it.'

All that glitters

What means more to Australia than its proud traditions? Manly sport, patriotism, beating the Poms, beating the world? Does anything matter more than these things? Only money. The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) has decided to ditch that proud and ancient symbol of the golden jumper, worn during 30 years of adventuring across the world of rughy union. The ARU has done a deal worth Aus \$6 million with Reebok, under which Reebok can muck it up all they like. The new jersey is a ghastly flashy mess with green-and-white flashes on a gold background. "It maintains the intrinsic and muchloved green and pre-dominantly gold and I believe retains the great traditions of Australain rugby," Jon O'Neill, the ARU chief executive, said. Well, England's own Rugby Football Union won't be selling out like that this year. They sold out years ago. The surprising thing is that Australia was prepared to sell the moral high ground over the Porns for such a small

Playing the joker

I read that the pyrotechnical Bulgarian footballer, Hristo Stoichkov, is to join Arsenal. Be warned: Stoichkov, besides having an on-pitch presence that makes Eric Cantona look shy and tentative, is a practical joker of some cruelty. His colleague at Barcelona, the Brazilian, Ronaldo, was rudely awakened from his slumbers by one of the directors and asked why he was not at training. Stoichkov had told him training was scheduled for the afternoon. Ronaldo, not Stoichkov, was fined. Mark Twain once said that "a German joke is no laughing matter the same is clearly true of Bulgarian jokes.

Footing the bill

Zambia is the world's most beautiful country and Zambian tootball remains a symbol of hope in a naughty world. I learn that 12 players from Power Dynamos of Kitwe have gone on strike. They will not train until they get their boots back. Club officials took away the boots they wear for training, promising new kit in time for the opening of the season in March. The players refuse to train in bare feet. How much did Newcastle United pay for Alan Shearer?

L · lower slopes: U · upper

THE most interesting and indeed significant, contests of the day in the FA Carling Premiership are linked not only by their bearing on Villa in what is indisputably

Brown has capability to revive world claims

NEVILLE BROWN, of Bur middle of the bout Quinn's on-on-Trent, can underline chin has not let him down as a his case for another world title challenge tonight when he meets Willie Quinn, of Edinburgh, ranked No 3 by the World Boxing Organisation (WBO), in Swadlincote

Brown last boxed for a world title ten months ago. He naved up to super-middleweight to challenge Steve Col-lins, of Ireland, but was stopped in 11 rounds. Brown has not boxed since then but. as he is coming down to middleweight to defend his British title against Quinn, he will be meeting an opponent who is more his size.

Brown is far more skilful than Quinn and also carries an explosive punch. He should stop the Scot by the the verdict over Brown.

professional, but when he was an amateur he was stopped in one round by Robin Reid, of Runcorn, who is now the World Boxing Council supermiddleweight champion.

At 24: Quinn is six years younger than the champion, but is hoping to catch him on the chin, which has looked vulnerable so many times. Brown can, however, take comfort from the fact that so far Quinn has not revealed the kind of punch needed to put him on the floor.

Quinn, too, has not boxed for ten months, but he has prepared himself well because, as WBO No 3, he knows he will move closer to a world title challenge if he gets

undermine any pretensions they have of succeeding the ominously strong Manchester have to start winning our OWN points. We have been lucky

SPORT NUMBER

"Aston Villa are right up there in contention for the title. They can have a big influence on it's outcome," he said. "It is a difficult game because they are direct rivals and a win for doubly significant." either side would be important. But really, we have got to stop thinking of it as a game

against rivals. "What we have to do is concentrate on our own results and forget about the rest. We

Italian, Deborah

Compagnoni, gained her first giant slalom victory of

the skiing season in Zwiesal,

Germany yesterday, finishing 1.16sec ahead of Anita Wachter, of Austria.

Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, finished third, to stretch

her World Cup lead over the

defending champion. Katja

Seizinger, of Germany, who

RUGBY LEAGUE: Bobbie

Goulding was last night called into the Great Britain

squad for the World Nines in

Townsville, Australia, from

January 31 to February 2. He

will replace Keiron Cunning-

ham, his colleague at St

SAILING: Ben Ainslie, Great Britain's Olympic sil-

ver medal-winner in the La-

ser class, flew to Rio de

Janeiro yesterday, where he

is to sail in the Brazilian

fell, by 60 points to 274.

United as champions. It was a subject Evans dwelt on as he analysed the title contest. results, because we have stayed top largely because of other people's results. They have dropped points to keep us in it. But now we really have to start putting our own house in order. We have to win matches and that means this game is

Liverpool have struggled to

The same could be said of

win matches of late, especially at home, and if their house is not out in order soon, it might fall down around Evans's

Newcastle, if not Dalglish. He is under no pressure to win

national championships. He

will take on Robert Scheidt,

who pipped him for gold in

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin

McRae begins his attempt to recapture the world champ-ionship at the Monte Carlo

Rally tomorrow. The 1995

world champion will contest

all 14 rounds of the champ-

ionship in his Subaru

immediately regarded as the returning messiah by the St James' faithful. He is, in football parlance, on a winner. Newcastle, though, really cannot afford to lose many more games between now and the end of the season. Six

anything at all this season but, if he does so, he will be

defeats is generally regarded as the absolute maximum, even in as bizarre a season as this, and they have reached that mark already. Dalglish recognises that the

absence of pressure could be significant. I don't think the

HOCKEY

Teddington bolstered by return of Laslett

JASON LASLETT, Great Britain's Olympic captain, resumes duty with Teddington today as the National League emerges from its winter break (Sydney Friskin writes). He played in the first match of the season last September and

In the twice postponed match against Southgate, Laslett will be one of the key BOXING: Evander Holyfield may receive \$40 million (about £23.5 million) for a rematch with Mike Tyson, figures for Teddington, who who he beat to take the have two new Australian play-World Boxing Association ers in their squad, Guthrie and Read. Southgate, holding third MGM Grand Hotel in Las

Vegas on May 3. place in the premier division and with the prospect of SKIING: Adrien Duvillard, another home match against Guildford tomorrow, are of France, was in a coma last night after a crash during hoping to make ground on training for the World Cup Cannock, the leaders. Several Southgate players, however, downhill today. have recently taken hard

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knocks. Soma Singh twisted an ankle in the Los Reyes tournament in Barcelona and

Duthie may not have fully recovered from a shoulder injury suffered earlier. Cannock entertain Old Loughtonians, who are six then decided to have a rest. points behind and desperate to make up the leeway.

The absence of Halls, who is still serving a disciplinary ban, imposes heavier burdens on Morrison and Robinson in Old Loughtonians' defence. East Grinstead are at full strength for their home fixture against Reading.

Paddy Selman, a former international hockey umpire. died in hospital at Worthing on Monday, aged 82. He was one of the umpires in the first World Cup tournament, in Barcelona in 1971,

SNOW REPORTS

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SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

Briton's promising run in Australian Open ends in swift defeat by Chang

Henman serves up false dawn

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

ILLUSIONS, illusions. Tim Henman had given a fair performance this week as a man of destiny but when the moment of truth arrived under the lights of the centre court of Melbourne Park, he appeared to be a man of straw. Michael Chang did not just beat him. He sent him packing 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 with unmistak-

In his moment of defeat Henman was slightly tetchy, which is not a bad thing so long as he is honest with himself in the more contemplative moments that lie shead. "I think by the time I walk out of the door I will have forgotten about this," he said, while at the same time admitting there were lessons to be learnt from such a resounding loss. In other words, he will not have forgotten about it at ail, and he will not be permitted to until he beats a player of comparable stature in an important competition.

This was a big match and it proved much too big for him. He was vanquished, utterly, and no amount of flimflammery can alter that basic, undeniable fact. Chang's mastery had the subsidiary effect of silencing the knot of Eng-

lish spectators, many wearing faces daubed with the flag of St George, who were "bar-racking" for Henman, as the Australians put it. They, too, were obliged to admit that their man's passage through this tournament had been

After trouncing Andrei Pavel and Guillaume Racux without dropping a set, Henman was in turn outplayed by a man whose superior athleticism and cunning, revealed the distance between the Englishman's ambition and his capacity to fulfil it. There was precious little conviction in his tennis and. without that quality, no sportsman is ever going to impose himself, particularly when his opponent is committed in the way Chang showed

himself to be. The beery roar that greeted Henman's first successful point, when Chang netted a backhand, brought some light



Dejection is etched deep into Henman's face during his straight-sets defeat by Chang, the No 2 seed, in the third round of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park

relief to a serious business. After Henman held his own service he then lost the next five games to surrender the first set in 26 minutes of painful self-realisation. He had twice held advantage on Chang's service in the fifth game, and the way subsided set the tone for the night. The American was too imposing, too experienced on the big points.

In that first set Henman had been outplayed. Chastened, and apparently full of resolve, he launched the sec-

ond set with some rippling strokes, driving back Chang as Chang had previously driven him. When he broke his service, and won the next same to love, he was 41 up; a new man, almost. He even broke Chang again to go 5-3 ahead before losing the next game to four unforced errors. When it went to a tie-break, Chang carried the first three points and won 7-3.

It had been a critical session of play. "Even though I played poorly," Henman said, should still have been one set all. In future, if I can get there, I'll be able to say 'let's start again'. I was given my chance tonight and I didn't take it."

Henman talked a game afterwards, a rather better game, in fact, than the one he had played. "I still have the belief that the next time I come up against him I can win. Even after playing 13 matches in three weeks I feel fresh, and capable physically. will probably forget about this, and think about the start

Nerves, he said, played no

to the year."

part in the performance. "I have played against people of similar class before, but I served pretty badly tonight and I mever found much rhythm from the baseline. I tative comment, but managed to say something complimen-tary about a bright future made life difficult for myself, and made it easier for him. I was looking forward to the occasion, a match under lights on centre court, but I am not

going to look into it any more than that at the moment." Chang, seeded behind Pete Sampras, will now play Andrei Medvedev in the quar-

ter-finals, and is determined to

add a second grand-siam title to his list after the French He has made an impact; but Open he won as a 17-year-old. He hardly saw enough of man 10 make an authori:

Henman, for his part, was grateful for the support of the small band of vocal Englishmen in the crowd, probably no more than 25 in number for all the talk of "Fienmania". "It shows that in tennis, and notjust in England, I am beginning to make an impact," he

the support he enjoyed here Dag liftle to go with people rooting for him belonged to the floating crew whose interest in sport is temporary, and rooted mainly in the big occasions. There was not as much silly behave iour as one might have expected and there was a funny moment when an English voice suddenly beseeched Henman: "England expects!" It still does.

Duberry plays the injured party in soap opera

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND JOHN GOODBODY

LIFE at Chelsea this season has often taken on the guise of a soap opera, with interest and intrigue in abundance. Yesterday's tale from Stamford Bridge involved Michael Duberry, the England Under-21 central defender. Gianluca Vialli, the apparently unsertled Chelsea striker, and Paolo Maldini, Vialli's Italian

Duberry's leading role in the latest episode of life with not-so-ordinary footballing folk of west London, was not a pleasant one. He sustained a snapped Achilles tendon in training on Thursday and, after undergoing surgery yesterday, has been ruled out for the rest of

because he was a player who had come in and was doing well," Roud Gullit, the Chel sea player-manager, said. "Michael just slipped over and

injured himself. Gullit also attempted to plarate the increasingly agitat-ed Vialli, who has not started any of Chelsea's last seven games and, subsequently, felt-the need to voice his concern in

the Italian media. would hope anybody would be unhappy when they're not playing. Gullit pared to do the business when they come in. If they have something they want to say to and see me."

Chelses will play an away.

"irlendly" match against AC

Milan on February 19 and

Golfit revealed that, while arranging the game, he made an inquiry about Maldini, the italy and Milan defender. "I

heard the rumours that Milan were ready to sell a lot of players and I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't ask for Maldini," Gullit şaid. "i can't magine Milan would self him, but I had to ask."

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday denied reports that the north London club was trying to sign Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgaria and Barcelona striker, on loan.

Birmingham City have signed Anders Limpar. Everton's Swedish winger, for £100,000 until the end of the season. Limpar's contract 21. Goodison Park was due to run out in June and he would have been able to return to Europe on a free transfer.

The domestic system in England is to be overhauled after the Bosman ruling by the European court. The Football Association is proposing that a professional player who is over 24 years old and out of contract should be. available on a free transfer to another club. However, clubs that have signed a youngster will be entitled to compensation for training the player up to the age of 21 if he then wants to move to a new club rather than sign a new, three-year contract with his existing club. The compensation will be

assessed by a panel.
Steve Double, the spokesman, said: "Our feeling is that the new system will bring us into line with the Bosman ruling and also with and keep the issue out of the courts. It is most unlikely that this new system will be inplace before the summer and it is-more likely that it will come into effect in 1998. At this stage it is still a document w

Northern lights can illuminate rugby

By DAVID HANDS RUCRY CORRESPONDENT

IT HAS become fashionable in the increasingly sour Nineties to deride not only successful individuals but successful institutions. The tail-poppy syndrome, as the Australians call it, has a particularly English equivalent — the blooming rose plucked of its petals, one might say — and rugby union is no different.

Thus the five nations' championship that begins to-day in Edinburgh and Dublin is compared unfavourably, every day it seems, with the game as played in the southern hemisphere. We blind ourselves to the championship's virtues and blithely accept that everything in the Australasian garden is wonderful, even when the evidence of the inaugural tri-nations championship last year is less than overwhelming.

It is true that rugby at its : best is played in the southern hemisphere, but then what else is new? For nearly a century New Zealanders and South Africans have been playing a more effective, more

successful brand of rugby and the Australians a more attractive one. The difference now is that we see it fair more frequently, not at intervals of ten years but every season, either in the flesh or courtesy of satellite television.

But not all their rugby is so

nalatable, so enriched with tries that we need to worship constantly at their altar. We would be far more profitably employed building up the virtues of our own championship, enhancing its enduring competitiveness, its capacity to surprise, its huge popularity and, if the playing standards are distinctly mixed, beseeching our technical staff to ensure that it becomes better.

Never can this be more true than in the year of a British Isles tour. The Lions will take themselves to South Africa this summer and their awakening from a four-year hibernation will act as an additional spur. Indeed, if Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, had his way then the British Isles would be the crowning glory for incoming tour teams on an annual basis.

McGeechan will be in Edin-



CHAMPIONSHIP

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v France, Scotland v Wales. February 1: England v Soutland. Wales v Ireland. February 15: Ireland v England, France v Wales March 1: England v France, Scotland v Ireland March 15: France v Scotland, Wales v England.

burgh today, paying special attention to the half backs who oppose each other in Scottish and Welsh colours. The Lions manager, Fran Cotton, travels to Ireland to study their candidates, who include the rumbustious Keith Wood, not only the Ireland hooker but also their captain, which, in itself, puts him in line for the Lions

John Hart, the New Zea-

who admire the five nations' championship but asks why it cannot be developed. That can be achieved not only by improved playing skills but by the admission of new blood italy are not so much knocking on the door as kicking the hinges off - or by the sort of bonus points system introduced in the tri-nations series and, nearer home, in the Welsh League.

Judging by the pronouncements from home unions representatives in Dublin yesterday. Italy will have to wait. Vernon Pugh, of Wales, who is aiso chairman of the International Rugby Football Board, said: "Italy have been told the door is open but it has to be demonstrated over a period of time that they have the competitive capacity to match and beat some of the five nations'

"No one is saying that they have to win, for example, three out of five games but their leading club sides weren't too successful in this season's European competition.

ed that. Cotton believes that the

tage derives from their successful Super 12 series but that is no accident; it has been developing over the past decade, from Super 6 to Super 10 and, in a quasi-professional environment, even before the admission of full-scale professionalism in August 1995. In Britain, by contrast, there has been no preparation for the professional game, political debate still holds centre stage and forward planning is hin-

dered accordingly.

Because of their playing strength and traditions, the five nations' championship desperately needs a strong lead from England and France which, as matters stand, it is by no means certain of getting. Nothing provokes a more positive reaction from the Celtic countries than the assumption that England will roll over them and positive rugby is what the championship needs more than anything else. We have seen it on the club scene and it is time the five nations' reflect-

Driven Ashton, page 46

Russell determined to make his mark

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN HAMILTON

JACK RUSSELL bas vowed to fight on against the "mo-notony" of being the forgotten man of England's winter tour. Russell, condemned to almost total inactivity by England's decision to use Alec Stewart as wicketkeeper-batsman in the Test side, has played only three one-day matches during the 55-day-old campaign in Zimbabwe and

New Zealand. Today Russell appears for his old club. Tukapuna, in an Auckland League fixture — a move designed to give him much-needed march practice. The Gloucestershire wicketkeener does not rule out a further appearance for the club he played for from 1983 to 1985 if the selection policy

does not change. Russell said: "The only time in my cricket career that I. have experienced such a long period of inactivity like this was during my very first England tour—to Pakistan in 1987 -- when I think I played 14 days' cricket in eight weeks. But I was a youngster

then, learning my trade, and as you get older it gets harder to be on the sidelines. It has become a bit monotonous. It was great just to get out on to the field as a substitute fielder the other day in Palmerston North. "I'm in a position where

you have two options - give up or fight on, and I am not prepared to give up yet." Russell fixed up his chib match after confirming that he would not be playing in the four-day match against Northern Districts, Rngland's final warm-up match before the first Test in Auckland next

England's batsmen, mean while, are likely to be denied the chance of taking a preparatory look at Simon Doull, 27, the highly-rated New Zealand fast bowler. Doull plays his club cricket for Northern Districts but the New Zealand management are well aware that he could be a secret weapon in the Test. ...

Dravid lifts India, page 47

Room to work, move, relax.

On Euroster, the journey is to be enjoyed, not endured. You have the space to concentrate on the lob in hand. Working on your laptop, reeding a novel, having a meal, taking a stroll or just dropping gently off to sleep. Tough at the top, isn't it?





Dubern

plays

Fashion ideas that go to your head shopping . 3

veekend

Five-page special on holidays in France travel - 17-21



SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

Jeffrey's very private view

When maverick chronicler of London's secret history Iain Sinclair asked Lord

Archer to show off his riverside art collection, he didn't expect

to get a look in. Then the invitation arrived ...

approached Alembic House, Lord Archer's Lambeth gaff, with a pis-tol to my head and hands tied behind my back. As it were I had promised my wife that I would be on my very best behaviour, no jibes, no sneers; no cheap satire. None of the usual kneejerk, formulaic, picaresque comedy. This would be disinterested reportage, a nice blend of Modern Painters and Hello!. Footnoted gush. Discreet tracking shots across the Archer art hoard, admiring references to the famous Thames views.

I'd put my request in writing explaining that I wanted to look over the collection and to weigh the pictorial values against the expressionist raids on this stretch of the river by the painters Oskar Kokoschka and John Bellany. I thought I might experiment with the Alan Whicker treatment tiptoeing across Persian rugs while Archer talked me through the glittering acquisitions.

For a sweetener, the postscript to my letter dropped the name (with her permission) of an in-law of mine, a close friend of Jeffrey Archer's from his Oxford days. This is why, where my wife was concerned, I was dancing on eggshells. Her family had no problem in drawing a distinction between the relative merits of blood ties and speculative literature. Their sense of tribal self-interest made the Mafia look like wimps with a suntan. Fiction writing was, properly, a kind of hobby: unfortunate, but tolerable if I brought in cash or fame. In essence, it was all exhibition of bad manners. If such matters... had to be performed in public, then Archer came as close as anyone to managing them with. the proper style — by divorcing himself from textual mess and running the operation as effectively as any other public company. There was a highly visible product identity and no author. A trick for which I felt

immoderate envy. Alembic House, 93 Albert Embankment, is one of London's worst-kept secrets: anyone who can pick up a help. We were deposited in a newspaper knows that Jeffrey panelled hallway, an ante-Archer has bagged the top two floors, and spent almost £2 million refurbishing them. A show home for a social balloonist. Wouldn't you — if you could? If you had the hottle. If

Lord Archer, in near perfect alignment between the art treasures of his riverside home and the power of the Houses of Parliament "a great place for hatching plots" you were prepared to expose right door. We scratched and yourself to all that metropolitan tapped at the panels. Then, all magnificence the Houses of Parliament, the Tate Gallery, the great bridges of London in perfect alignment. You can't get more upwardly mobile without taking on oxygen. This is the ultimate "riverside opportunity", the one the estate agents pay homage to in their Rotherhithe brochures. The Alembic House lift was heavily quilted like a soft cell. It

tapped at the panels. Then, all at once, one of them swung back and an attractive young Sloane, crisp and efficient, appeared - to tell us that, unfortunately, Archer was away working on a book, and his son William, the art-history graduate and archivist of the collection, was not available to give us the tour, but we could help ourselves to the views in which we had expressed so

much interest. Game, set, and probably match, to Jeffrey. He had demonstrated his magnanimity by allowing us (myself and photographer Marc Atkins) to do precisely what I had requestcollection and photograph the ing plots, planning coups, or

splendid riverside prospects. I was in his debt - but he had not presented me with the opportunity to indulge in any form of interrogation, however bland. Absent, he was immune to ridicule, while I was obliged to do the decent thing by tactfully listing his possessions. Flawlessly played.

he secretary — person-al assistant — retreated to her gantry, leaving us to come to terms with this gobsmacking exhibition of wealth and privilege. It would be a strong man who didn't fantasise about having the use of this flat, the low London skies, the glittering ed in my letter - ponder the art river. A great place for hatch-

indulging in cosmological meditation, but a hopeless place for hammering away at the key-board. How could you compete with the panorama that enveloped you?

I've never been in a writer's home - if you could call this a home - that hit you with such a sense of its separateness. The qualitative difference that Scott Fitzgerald (one of the authors Archer purports to collect) saw as dividing the rest of us from the seriously rich. This was wealth as a vocation. I was used to apologetic cribs. part inherited, part salvaged book wrecks, uncorseted sofas - not so much lived in as

resurrected. The writer's life as an unequal struggle with chaos theory. Provisional slums

awaiting the big advance, the Finnish translation that would furnish a new set of curtains. Archer, a born-again cad, not content with buying his own furniture, had the chutzpah to have it made in larger than life size. He'd perch on one of these striped satin thrones like a

mosquito on a tiger's nose. I pondered Archer's indulgence in allowing us to wander freely over his fabulous domain. I had written to half-adozen others with a stake in this stretch of the river - painters. archivists, businessmen, keyholders - asking for interviews, intelligence, permission to view. Universal silence.

We were in Archer's debt and it left us uncomfortable. Perversely, it was the character

who had shown most faith in our project (whatever that was) that we trusted least. The leap of consciousness required to calmly evaluate the penthouse was beyond us. We were almost obliged to demonstrate our integrity by throwing ourselves from the balcony.

The spacious L-shaped apartment is on two levels, with the river-facing office/study set above the reception area, and accessed by marble stairs, flanked with golden griffins (multiples of the Maltese Falcon). The design is by Julian Dakowski - who also renovated the kitchen at Granchester. The eastern arm of the L faces downriver: the Houses of Parliament on the left bank and St Thomas' hospital on the right, with the three bridges (Lambeth, Westminster, Hungerford) diminishing in perfect perspective. Sitting at the end window, sundowner in hand, a tragic poet with a taste for sentimental elegies would have

6 This is a show home for a social balloonist. You can't get more upwardly mobile without taking on oxygen. It is the ultimate "riverside opportunity". the one the estate agents pay homage to in their Rotherhithe brochures 9

been uniquely placed to watch the Marchioness pleasure boat go down.

Archer's collection is "one of the most valuable in the land ... which some estimate could be worth around £10 million": an assertion of his own taste, displayed in a building which he has paid for with his own cash, and which he makes more readily available to students and busybodies (such as Atkins and myself) than the galleries that we have been required to support. Archer's current exhibition can look across the river at the Tate without blushing. At El0 million, if that random figure means anything, his holdings are negligible, no more significant than the meretricious trash amassed for Robert Maxwell's posthumous jumble sale. It couldn't be compared, for example, with the collection accumulated by the Dublin fertiliser magnate Sir Basil Goulding — with his Expressionist portfolio, magnificent examples of Kokoschka and Jack B. Yeats. Archer is more of a Jacobean, an adventurer, a New Man confirming his status by exhibiting a cabinet of

But the scale and the organisation of Archer's set - right down to the vases of dying lilies - is one we have previously encountered only in public

Continued on page 2

FAMILY LIFE.

COUNTRY LIFE..... 15

TRAVEL

GAMES

ANOTHER BUSY DAY IN THE MALDIVES

would absorb any cries for

chamber with no obvious exit.

We felt as if we had blundered

into the coda of Stanley

Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odys-

sey, the lift had been a rebirth

and now we had to choose the



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2 · shopping

ostalgia aside, there is little reason why anyone would want to shop in village shops. Unless, of course, they live on a diet of over-priced corned beel, sponge fingers and stale Sugar Puffs. No amount of heart-of-the-community talk can make up for the fact that, for the most part, village shops are poorly stocked, overpriced and no contest for the air-conditioned, wide-aisled pleasure of out-of-town super-

Different shops have chosen different paths to survival. The most pathetic are those which have gone beyond Ragu and turned themselves into feeble imitations of the urban delicatessen. In shopping terms, they are the equivalent of those early Italian restaurants which served spaghetn, mince and ketchup and called it bolognese. With limp lemon grass

and curling parma ham, the owners are like awkward farmhands at the village squire's table, struggling to please the city weekenders. "God, it's so sweet," bray - bubble bath". Old ladies pulling the visitors on first arriving. We must buy everything here, so good for the community." In a few weeks, however, they are turning up for the weekend with boxfuls of artichoke hearts and pannetone from some darling city creep called Ottavio. The shop becomes nothing more than somewhere to grab a packet of Silkies en route to the Michelin-starred pub-restaurant down the road.

Wisteria Cottage, East Hendred, Oxfordshire, however. they seem to have found a way forward for the village shop. Wrapped in a mid-morning mist. its protruding window glows with those emergency staples: cereal, bread, and Matey, the bubbliest

SERIOUS SHOPPING THE VILLAGE SHOP

المكذا من الأصل

their trollies, and peroxided teenagers in army surplus clothes, breeze in and out. It looks easily the cosiest place in a very cosy village, not in the least bit threatened by the mega-markets throbbing just a few miles away. The owner is Helen Noll, a

deeply practical, big-sisterly woman in her early thirties, who, with her husband, began renting the 500-year-old shop two years ago, A door behind the till leads through to her house. The kitchen also serves as laundry room and office, and the smell of washing powder and laundered Y-fronts mingles with that of the soup on the Aga. "It's farmhouse soup, which can mean just about any-



BY PHILIP **DELVES BROUGHTON**

thing," Mrs Noll says. "We make it every day, particularly for the older people, who like to take it away for lunch."

MAGAZINE

On one side of the shop is the

post office, a dark, wooden cubicle. with just enough room for the postmistress to squeeze in. This is the focus for all that Ealing comedy-style village chatter. "She's just had her blood check and the baby's due in February. no April," said one woman, discussing her daughter with two friends. Another elderly woman, her head wrapped tightly in a blue and gold scarf, handed a fat letter across the counter, addressed to New York. "I couldn't stop writing this time," she said. "I hope she has time to read it all.""I'm sure she will," the postmistress reassured. Talk of saving the Titlield Thunderbolt and rescuing wee Timmy from the mill pond was doubtless scheduled for the afternoon.

In the fridge are pork sausages brought in each evening by a man in the village who works at Fellers, a butcher in Oxford's covered market. The milk is full fat. unhomogenised and comes from the Mount Pleasant dairies in Oxfordshire. "We call it happy milk." Mrs Noll says. Thick white loaves of bread from Chieveley, near Newbury, sit on top of the cheese counter alongside chocolate sponge and madeira cakes. English wine from a local vineyard and honey from an apiary on a

nearby farm are also on sale.

Aside from being an outlet for local English goodies, the shop remains a focus for the village. In the summer it organises a marmalade competition, which is judged by Pather Robin, the Catholic priest, and a fund-raising karaoke and pig roast evening after the summer Ree. Fairy lights are

simply rack it

thrown up round the garden an everyone from the council hous residents at the top of the village t Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and th fast livers of the local racin community joins in. Even J.F. Priestley would have to have bee in a particularly purple mood t

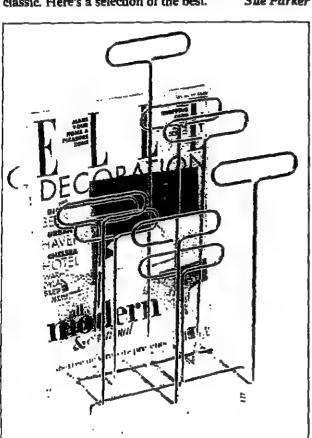
invent this lot. A rustic delicatessen then, be steeped in sponge-fingered trad tions, this may be the future for th

village shop. Since her arrival as the shor keeper, Mrs Noll has already been asked to be godmother to one loca child. As her rally of godchildren rises, and it undoubtedly will, and she grows into ever more of an Aunty Bun, she and East Headred will have found a way to cock their villagey snook at the corporate retailing monsters, hungry for their business. Giles Coren is away.

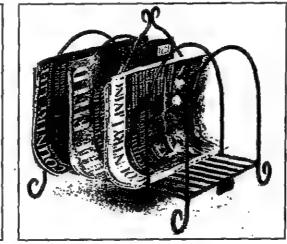
Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, 🕖 London W8 (0171-937 2626)

Don't stack it

COMPULSIVE magazine and newspaper buying has its down side: you have to live with a tower of messy journals on the brink of collapse and the tricky manoeuvre of extracting the one you want that is always at the bottom of the pile. The solution is a magazine rack - anything from a wire basket to a wooden design classic. Here's a selection of the best. Sue Parker

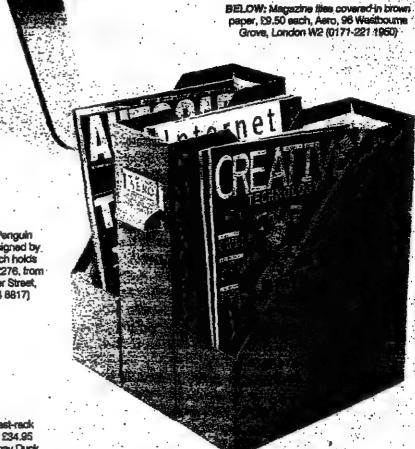


ABOVE: Minimalist chrome Forest magazine holder, £30 rom Wirewarks (0171-724 8856



ABOVE: The Isokon Periouin donkey in birch ply, designed by books and magazines, \$276, from Coexistence, 288 Upper Street, London N1 (0171-354 8817)

LEFT: Wrought iron toast-rack style magazine holder, £34.95 plus £5 p&p, from Bombay Duck mail order (0181-964 8882)



RIGHT: Original 1950s magazine rack, £12, from a selection at Flying Duck Enterprises, 320-322 Creek Road, Greenwich, London SW10 (0181-858 1984)

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THE

'This glass cage must be hell for a man of ambition'

Continued from page 1 spaces, hotels or boardrooms (glimpsed on our explorations of the City). And that is as it

should be: because the penthouse is the headquarters of a public company. Jeffrey Archer, his works and thoughts. You can't sit here doing the crossword, clipping your nails, or scoffing a TV dinner. You are perperually confronted by the unresting buzz of London, the challenge of all those centres of power and influence - the indifferent, remorseless river.

This glass cage, what-ever the indulgence of the toys on the table. the mirrors and the golden birds, must be hell for a man of ambition and unflagging energy who has been excluded from the inner councils of government.

To be the first clown in the jand, warm-up act, cheer leader, must be an act of peculiar generosity and well-disguised bitterness. To be left with the surrogate drama of prose which, with each successive book, more and more material used up, becomes a harder labour. The brutal exposure of inadequacy that is any longterm literary career. Choosing the art that will promote your own special quality of discern-ment (and also express, by analogue. your personality in the form of a pictorial autobiography of developing taster demands specialised help: investment brokers, fabric designers, style consultants. You always end up — because. after all, you are the one who is footing the bill - with much more stuff than any one life can reasonably absorb. Which Miro for the staircase? Which Picasso dove shall hang en route to the lavatory? Which

Lowry should signal the com-

pornography of the tycoon evolves towards institutional benevolence: departments of sponsorship facilitators, carrier aesthetes, well-bred diplomats schooled to talk money. Archer's collection is still in the primitive stage. It will be left, so it is understood, when the time comes - and after his son William, the art historian, has taken his pick to Archer's old Oxford college.

Brasenose.

All museums, libraries and galleries, should be banished to Oxford. Let them be for the exclusive use of those who will walk there. London should be left to the cut-purse brigands, hustlers, ganets, courtiers, actors, whores, and other creatures of business. It's speedy. crazed. murderous — but nev-er speedy enough. There are too many artificial Deep England villages, too many smoke-free zones, too much repressive hypocrisy. Muse-ums have got above themselves, touting for funds, when they should remember their origins as mere cabinets of curiosities. Boxes of tricks, bits of animal skin, fossils, plant freaks: blood cargo. You can't make this pillage respectable by enclosing it in a fancy public building — with an outhouse for the sale of post-

cards and embossed pencils. Lord Archer understood this: he would scavenge, bargain with gallery owners, play the market. (He also had postcards made of the prime items in his collection. But these were for promotion not for retail.)

I took out my notebook and began, like a bailiff, to list the art works: two Lowrys down at the east end (art for those who don't like art, those who are endowed with a healthy measure of English cynicism - the visual equivalent of Private plunder, the discreet Philip Larkin). A weary and



Lord Archer among the treasures in his refurbished £2 million London penthouse

bloodless elitism disguised by technical competence. A 1958 seascape with jetty and trip-pers like burnt out matchends. A steep flight of steps from 1961. Both genuine, I would say. Cannily modest, with plenty to be modest about.

To the right of this pair, in a position of prominence, is a much noisier affair, a Vuillard, a family group. An acquired set, not Archer's own family - although the woman, it can't be denied, has something of the hauteur of Mary Archer. Painterly virtues, colour harmonies, balance and composition remove this piece from the genre that comes to

mind: the reworked Polaroid. Moving down the passage that leads to the stairs and the private sleeping quarters, you glide along the inevitable anthology of political cartoons. There is the exhibition, beloved by politicians, of a

demonstrable sense of humour. But Archer's originals do not feature himself, they are more subtle than that, among the best of their kind: Vicky and Peter Brookes, as well as Steadman and Scarfe, E.H. Shephard, Max Beerbohm.

eyond the cartoons. at the foot of the stairs, are a couple of throwaway Mirós and, at the end of the corridor. above a potted plant, a notable Leon Underwood: Venus in Kensington Gardens. This is a rather academic affair in which a nude sits in an open-air café among Underwood's art school colleagues. But it is a totem for Archer, a memento of his Grafton Street Gallery Cone of my race failures"), which featured in his first and most personal novel. Not a Penny

More, Not a Penny Less.

Russell Flint, Lucien Pissarro,

Sisley: works mirrored in the columns of art books gleaming on the low glass tables. Small sculptures that I fail to identify, examples of the almost familiar. Anoresic things that aren't by Giacometti.
Like a blindfold raid by

Imelda Marcos on the Royal Academy Summer Show, the collection is driven but wildly eclectic - betraying no psychological profile no theme, no compulsion. It is as anonymous as shop stock, an exhibition curated by a squabble of financial advisers.

We climb the marble stairs to the upper gallery, where the personal assistant is working at the keyboard and fielding telephone calls: "Just make the cheque out to Lord Archer. He'll see it gets to the right

The low ceiling (with telltale damp patch), the wood, the rails, the light from the river:

cruise liner. No lightweight furniture. Everything bolted in its place. Uncluttered desk and built in bookcases, with some small part of Jeffrey Archer's collection of first editions — all by one author, himself I've never before seen paperbacks bound in silver. books bright and shiny enough to satisfy the most fasticious of dealers (Is it

possible to re-read an Archerij "His" and "Hers" desks si on either side of the stairwell backed by a run of Raoul Dufy Thames riverscapes, liquid blue sketches recalling the posters in the cale bar on the other side of the road. Inoffen,

The PA is struggling, ring-ing round her mates for advice - without success. She's bean asked to book tickets for a show with a title she can't begin to pronounce, let alone feed into the spell check. Peer Gynt. Having suffered through a misguided production at the Barbican. I'm reckless enough to help he out. To employ someone to take care of lisen for you must be the ultimate luxury. It goes with the cricket bat inscribed by the English Test team of 1992 to the best captain they never had, and the Max Ernst sculpture (bookend size), the W.G. Grace caricature, the japed Coke can, the rebound set of Dickens with gilredges (books as furniture), the lamps and mirrors and framed

pagotographs. The PA was still busy on the whome - "Go to Harvey Nichols and you can't look at a summer outlit for under +2,000 Honestly, you need at least £50 for a T-short — as we waved our farewells, semaphored our gratitude

Detracted from Lights Out-for the Territory, by lain Sinchif-to be published by Granta Books at £12.99 on Januar 1923

Hair accessories are back, says Heath Brown, and there are sticks, combs, clips and slides for every hairdo



LEFT: Zigzag stretch hairband, £2.95. Top: square cut-out gilt clip, £11.95, both Johnny Loves Rosie, Ferwicks, Bond Street, W1 (D171-829 9181). Below: flower clip, 24.99, Accessorize, branches nationwide (D171-313 3000). Back: gilt long-tooth comb, £2.95, Fenwicks

RIGHT: Burgundy velvet trellis hair band, £7.95; Top: small double-rose ctip, £9.95, from a wide selection at Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Below: rose hair stick, £12.50 each, Jackson, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-243 9900)

Get a head – get a hairband

flowing locks or short-cropped hair, a woman's head will not be properly dressed without the obligatory hair accessory. Long hair can be twisted and secured into elegant chignons using butterfly clips or haircombs. Shorter cuts can be dressed up with decorative slides or barrettes. Mary Flack, of Fenwicks of Bond Street, says that the

flowing locks or ments began before Christmas short-cropped and looks set to be in full swing by the summer. "Sticks, combs, clips and slides in all sorts of designs are a musthave," she says. "The biggest theme is floral."

Faux flowers attached to combs and clips are the perfect partner to the soft feminine frills, sheers and florals of this summer's clothes. Large fabric roses look dramatic, while

THREE "- " KIND

The short macintosh is a springtime essential. It is a handy coverall that evokes the romance of rainy days in Paris,

with a twist of Audrey Hepburn 1950s chic. H.B.

FAR LEFT: Stone double-breasted mac, £138, from Jigsaw, 128 New Bond Street, W1, and selected pranches nationwide (0171-491 4484). MtDDLE: Black weterproof gaberdine mac, selected pranches nationwide (0171-491 4484). MtDDLE: Black weterproof gaberdine mac, selected pranches nationwide (available from 0500 777777). LEFT: White mylon foldaway frac, £19.99, from the Empire catalogue (available from 0345 200400)

hairdos. Good examples to be found nationwide are from smaller rows of xilk flowers are subtle and romantic. stockists of Johnny Loves Rosie (0171-435 0089), or look The catwalks of Milan and Paris showed a large selection of floral hairwear for this out for loose single fabric flowers from haberdashery departments to customise your spring and summer. Dolce & Gabbana showed large, cloth cabbage roses teamed with its

cabbage-roses teamed with its Chinese and flowered print outlits; Versace punctuated his show with sprigs of foliage clipped, pinned and skewered; and Valentino had orchid-effect additions to high frizzed The tortoiseshell effect is another big look for more delicate slides and pins. Shorter hairstyles with just enough length to hold a slide look good with a few strips of tortoiseshell. It is also perfect for the beiges and browns of the moment and will work well with blonde, brunette and black hair.

The same goes for the gold accessories that are prevalent now. The shapes shown are modernist and abstract, with belt-buckle designs, matt bars and bubble motifs.

eware of the cheap and tacky when choosing hair ac-cessories," says the hairdresser Trevor Sorbie. Go for the best quality, because cheaper accessories can damage the hair, causing it to break off. And always check that there are no sharp edges on combs or stides."

For thicker hair, Sorbie suggests using long-prong combs or one-prong purs. For finer hair it is better to use hair slides that lock into place. Styles should have a feeling of being loose and free while still

being securely pinned.
Zigzag hair bands are the best way to keep a mass of over-unruly hair in place, but stay clear of solid hairbands and Alice bands in thick velvet or coloured plastic. Elastic hair "bobbles" are still around but avoid the "scrunchie".

The new dressed-up hair is feminine, subtle and sophisticated.

> Photographs by Historica Burns. Hair and make-up by



ABOVE: Tortoiseshell hair band, £9.99, Oasis, selected branches nellonwide (0171-452 1000)

Before hair band: (left) circle clip, £3.99 (for two), Next, branches nationwide (0116-284 9424); (right) small clip, £9.95, Ferwicks, as before

Bohind his band: (left) two metching stides, £11.95 (for four); (right) small buil dog clip, £2.50 (for three), both Miss Selfridge, branches nationwide (0181-910 1359)

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I want to plant an evergreen flowering climber on a north-facing. pebble dashed wall, but the only ones I can find in books are *Berberidopsis* corallina and Pileostegia viburnoides. Would either be suitable? - M. Okola, Headington, Oxford.

A Berberidopsis is on the tender side and too unreliable for such a purpose. Pileostegia, which is in the hydrangea family. would succeed, but it is slow and you would need to be patient. It has good, evergreen leaves and is selfclinging by means of aerial roots. It appreciates shelter. In time, it will build into generous billows of foliage on the wall, rather as the deciduous climbing Hydrungea petiolaris does. On a pebble-dashed wall, aerial roots, as found in Pileosteeia and ivy, can find their way into surface cracks and let in water, so be sure the surface is in good order before using these plants.

Deciduous alternatives include climbing roses or the Virginia creeper lookalike Parthenocissus tricuspidara 'Veitchii'. which clings by harmless suckers.

My son has a James Grieve apple which bore only 12 apples this year. It has two spindly side shoots, with a bulge around the base, just above ground level. What is the answer? - Rev. C.W. Earle, Ware, Hertfordshire.

It sounds as if the tree A could do with some formative pruping, to encourage a proper branch structure. But why is it

growing so weakly? I suspect that the bulge is the graft point. If the graft is incomplete, the growth above will be weak. It may be that the graft was not properly formed when the tree was purchased. Or it may be that the graft has partly broken open due to inadequate staking. Significant bulging suggests there is a fault in the graft. If so, you will have to buy a new

tree and start again.

Q i planted 500 erocuses to brighten up the spring garden. Five weeks later I found that mice had eaten the lot. Do you think a dusting with sulphur at planting would deter the mice? I live in the country and could not hope to eliminate mice by trapping, as E.A. Bowles sugis in his book Crocus and Colchicum. — J.M. Hughes, Bradford on Avon,

A By all means my surphur. Bowles also cites a Flemish text of 1614 showing mice eating crocuses, so the problem is as old as they come. Rubbing the corms in paraffinsoaked sand works in some cases. Crocuses can be protected by setting fine wire mesh over the corms and under the turf, but this is only practical in small ar-A cat helps, of course.

By all means try sul-

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Nigel Colborn welcomes the renewed interest in holly, that Victorian garden and park favourite



Horticulturist John Ravenscroft in the grounds of Bridgemere Garden World in Nantwich, Cheshire, with an example of a silver holly. The aquifolium 'Argentea Marginata'

Return of a prickly customer

or serious gardeners the past century has left a rich, if neglected, legacy. Evergreens of all kinds have been cherished since pre-Roman days - how else can you ensure winter structure and interest? - but Victorians had a special love

for them, specifically holly. More new forms and varieties of holly appeared in the 19th century than ever before: the wealthy planted their estates with them and city philanthropists profiled public parks with as many members of the genus Ilex as possible.

After two world wars, however, fashions changed and conifers, mostly from North America, began to supplant the holly. For decades, the staggering range of Ilex specles and varieties declined, replaced by thujas, cypresses. unipers and the monstrous leylandii hedge. Then came heather and conifer beds, and even the lazy gardener's dream turned into nightmare by the 1980s on realising how awful they looked.

Thankfully, those Victorian hollies proved to be durable, surviving in old parks and gardens and propagated by a few devotees. Just as well, because one such specialist, John Ravenscroft, the founder of Bridgemere Garden World, points out that today's discernng gardeners abhor conilers and are turning to holly. He should know, he grows 30,000 of them every year in Cheshire is expanding his

"All gardens need evergreens," he says, "but holly the holly's amazing power of recovery." Conifers cannot regenerate and if pruned too hard, will be ruined. Holly, however, benefits from pruning, producing vigorous

young growth.

Hollies will also tolerate poor drainage better than conifers. This is especially important in the gardens of new houses, Mr Ravenscroft says. But the biggest advantage of hollies is that they are much more versatile. "You cangrow them as large trees, clip them to any size or shape for topiary or formal hedges, plant them to create an informal, sound-deadening, impenetrable and highly decorative screen." he savs.

ollies are infinitely variable. There are varieties such as Ilex aquifolium Pendula' that weeps like wilows, others such as I. aqu. Hascombensis' that forms an upright exclamation mark, and I. aqu. 'Bacciflava', whose outline is pyramidal.

The naming of many of the older varieties is riddled with confusing Latin and based on the classification by the plantsman John Claudius Loudon in the 1840s, when such nomenclature was fashionable. The name altaclerensis, for example, refers to the

Rydal Hall, Rydal, Ambleside, Cumbria (01539 432050)

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The William Wordsworth shrine at

neighbouring Rydal Mount is better

known than this, one of the gardens by

the Lake District's most distinguished

designer, Edwardian Thomas Mawson.

Mawson's priority of designing gardens

that progressed from formality around

the house to areas of more informal plantings of trees and shrubs, merging

into woodland, is evident here during

winter. Sweeping stone steps descend

from the house to lawns with formal beds.

But the effect of architectural formality is

accentuated by its contrast with rugged

wooded hills and the stream that pours

down waterfalls. The garden has under-

gone restoration since the house was

Voluntary donations

Highelere estate in Hampshire, where the cross between I. aquifolium and I. perado was first developed.

Most daunting of these names is the silver hedgehog holly liex aquifolium 'Ferox Argentea, a tongue-numbine mouthful, but at least one is saved the horror of such modern plant monickers as Nylon Ruffles' or 'Sexy Rexy'.

Her is a large genus, with wild species in every continent except Australasia. Even island groups such as Madeira and the Canaries have their native hollles, each distinctive and many useful for breeding hybrids. There are tender species such as I. comuta, a Korean shrub with pointed, prickly leaves and huge red the unholly-like Japanese I. crenata, whose berries are black: and deciduous kinds. such as the strange I. vertic-

ilex altacieren

Hodginsii' (male). Superb

Modest berry-cropper, large

leaves with short prickles.

I. aquifolium 'Madame Briot' (female). Classic holly

leaf shape with strong gold leaf edge. Young shoots burnish in winter. Perfect

coth, long, oval

with red berries.

I. alt. 'Beigica Aurea'.

Silver variegation:

leaves, narrow silver

margins, purple bark, moderate cropper.

I. aqu. 'Ferox Argentes (male). Prickly foliage.

Interesting shapes:

i. aqu. Green Pillar.

at hase than tip. Good

berries, good green leaves

pollinator, so good to plant

Forms a perfect column, wider

I. 'Handsworth New Silver' (female). Longish

leaves with narrow gold

margins, moderate croppe

Golden variegation:

gloss on smooth leaves. I. alt, Wilsoni's (female).

berries without a leaf in sight. The most widely developed, and the most decurative garden varieties have almost all been raised either from the common English holly I. aquifolium or the closely related hybrid I. altaclerensis.

Mr Ravenscroft is unequivocal about his choices. The best for foliage is 'Hodginsil', he says. "It keeps its gloss in winter better than any others." Being an altaclerensis variety. it might be fractionally less hardy than wild English holly, but it thrives in my Lincolnshire garden along with i. alt. Wilsonii, whose big glossy leaves are a lighter shade of green and has the advantage of being female and, therefore,

berry-bearing. Ravenscroft says, but varieties that bear too heavily often suffer leaf-drop the following season, and that makes them illata, which presents winter unsightly until they recover -

I. aqu. 'Madame Briot'

deep green, narrow leaves on small trees. Upright habit. I. aqu. 'Pendula'. Inclined

to overdo its fruiting, but a

Tol'. Heavy cropper, good, dark green leaves. Inclined

to over crop and, therefore, suffer leaf drop in

l. aqu. Baccillava Yellow berries on a pyramid-

Laqu. Myrtifolia. Tiny.

MOST POPULAR HOLLIES

for planting males and fe-males together, because apart from the need for fertilisation. the foliage on the male is possibly more dependable. Or choose a variety that bears moderate berry crops, Mr Ravenscroft advises.

entatively, I suggest another of my favourites, 1. alt. Belgica Aprea', with its oval, nearly thornless leaves, each holdly edged in gold — a wonderful contrast for the red berries. Mr Ravenscroft agrees. "It's a nicely pyrami-dal tree, too," he says, "but the absolute best leaf and berry combination is 'Handsworth New Silver, whose leaves are v marked with edges and contrasting dark

purple new stems. "One of the downsides of holly is weeding among fallen leaves," he says. "It's agong: But perhaps the biggest disincentive is that when you buy a holly tree, you appear to get little for your money." A 28tall holly in most garden centres will cost about the same as a 10ft cherry or crab. apple, so the impression is of poor value. But hollies are not

alow growers.
"When you plant a holly hedge," Mr Ravenscroft says. "select 2ft oin plants and set them at a 45-degree angle to the ground. That way, the branches will grow up 80 thickly that you will get an impenetrable, thief-proof bar rier. And, should someone drive a car through it, rents ber holly's power of recovery

Three hundred years and the diarist John Evelyn was horrified when his guest Tsa Peter the Great of Russi borrowed a horse and used has 400ft-long holly hedge have fumping practice weekings in the process. Within a second however, it was well on the mend, inspiring him to write: It mocks at the rolls. assaults of weather, beasts, or hedgebreakers.

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■ Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall

OPEN THE WEEK FOR

Lanhydrock's magnificent gatehouse

spring, it is during winter that the stone house, church and gatehouse are most dramatically shown off in their garden and park setting. From the main woodland garden, you look down over the granite buildings and great drums of yew, and it is also possible to appreciate the

Drama among a winter landscape skill with which trees and shrubs are grouped. And although Lanhydrock does not enjoy the extremely mild conditions of Cornwall's southern coastal gardens, even in January the signs of flowering activity are often beginning.

E Belsay Hall, Belsay, near Newcastle upon Tyne (01661 881636)

About 14 miles northwest of Newcastle via A696. Open daily 10am-4pm to end of March, then 6pm. E3, children E1.50

The full dramatic potential of Beissy built during the early 19th century with stone quarried on a site made into a garden of rocky ravines - has maximum effect on a crisp winter's day. And the 30 acres have much else to offer including a winter garden and the walk which winds through woods containing majestic confers and along the lakeside with constant views to the symmetrical house With contributions from the sarry 19thcentury when the balance of garden and parkland was first established, to later in that century when exotic tree specimens were among the additions, and a sympathetic restoration by English Heritage. Belsay is now an intriguing example of gardening history.

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southeast of Bodmin. Open daily during

This is the time to enjoy one of the National Trust's most visited gardens in the southwest. And while you may miss the great banks of colour that start in

Where you can let your dream garden take seed

here are eight or more leading seed suppliers in Britage each sending out entiting catalogues, and you may be wondering how to choose between them. The differences are considerable.

To get the hest when buying seeds by mail order you need to be certain about what kind of plants you want and which are the specialist suppliers.

Different companies have different ranges. Unwins, for example, is known for its flowers, especially sweet peas, though it selfs some vegetables, no. Marshalls, owned by the Unwins group, specialises in vegetables but sells the kind of flowers you might grow on an allotment for cutting or as bedding plants, and has increased its catalogues to two a year, to catch the in both the flower and vegetal camps, with a few simules and perennials as well.

All the companies are keen to keep and increase their share of sales and, therefore, like to dabble in most areas of plant growing.

Unwins is keen to sell specialist bulbs but, because it is a sweet pea specialist, has already sent out an autumn catalogue to mailing list customers who want to get their. sweet pea seeds planted in winter.

Competition is fierce and seed companies are not on the sweetesi terms. Most told me that their aim is to have about 100 new additions to the catalogue every year, which is good in that it brings in new varieties but depressing in that many old favourites are all too often consigned to the scrap heap of fashion.

Seymour's Seeds, which introduces 100 new additions a year, claims to have the keenest prices, and emulates the John Lewis "never knowingly undersold" policy, so if a customer finds one of the company's items cheaper elsewhere, they will receive a free packet of seeds and a credit voucher to the value of the packet.

Many of the "new" varieties are bred by wholesale seed growers. who supply the seed-selling companies. Martin Thrower, the horticultural manager of Thompson & Morgan, which has a plandet

If you want a beautiful summer or autumn garden, you'll need to order

seeds now, says Stephen Anderton

SEED SUPPLIERS

Britain's larger seed Samuel Dobie & Sons, Broombill Way, Torquay, Devor TQ2 7QW (01803 616888)." D.T. Brown & Co. Station Road, Poulton le Pylde, Land FY6 71-DX (0) 253 882371) --S.E. Marshall and Co. Wister Cambridgeshire PEI32RF

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Time to get your seeds now

Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulversion, Cumbria LA12 7BP Seed Dept (PF), St Marychurch Road, Newton Abbot, Devon

TO12 4SE (01803 872939). Many of the smaller suppliers are listed in The Plant Finder (RHS. £11.99, ISBN 0 951 21618 X), from all good booksellers.

offshoot in Guernsey, reckons that of its 100 new additions every year, 15 will be bred by themselves which Mr Thrower claims is a high proportion within the industry—35. by wholesale breeders and 50 by cialist growers, breeders and the bigger garden nurseries.

However, the time taken to develop a new variety is four to five years, so even 15 new plants a year means are important and costly research commitment.

To some gardeners here, the surprising thing is that behind the packing sheds of the British seed suppliers are no great fields emblazoned in living colour: most seed is

grown abroad, in New Zealand, Africa, India and other parts of Europe, and in climates where two generations of seed can be grown in one year, a double cropping which keeps the development time of a variety down to four to five years. Registration of new varieties

takes time, too. "Flowers are easy,"

Mr Thrower says, "but vegetable

are very, very slow." He cites EC rules as one of the reasons. Despite all the problems, Unwins is now selling seeds over the counter in 21 countries, including every state in America, and in Russia, where flowers for drying

-elnapress

0500 001109

are particularly popular.

Stephen Anderton has been recognised as the top newspaper writer for 1996 by the Garden Writers' Guild. It is the second year in succession that be has won the award.

Among the many seed catalogues, Thompson & Morgan's stands out as an exception. It offers flowers and vegetables but also a range of exotic trees, shrubs and houseplants. It is often the first port of call for eager gardeners wanting to grow something a little more unusual from seed.

The Thompson & Morgan catalogue is glossy and its distribution is immense: in millions rather than hundreds of thousands, as with other seed suppliers. For 20 years Thompson & Morgan has distributed an American catalogue, from its New Jersey office, which contains the same range of flowers as in the British catalogue but also a selection of vegetables specially adapted to American tastes and climates. All the plants offered are marked with a hardiness zone rating, a system which is generally used across America.

This winter sees the arrival of another Thompson & Morgan office in Arras, France, and a catalogue containing plants from the British catalogue.

n the Thompson & Morgan catalogue you can also find the latest fashionable darlings of the hardy plant world, such as the wonderful verdigris-blue Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens' (which seems to be much hardier than the plain green form), alongside the regular stock-in-trade pansies, busy lizzies and geraniums.

But the catalogue also offers things such as baobab trees, magnolias, various edible passion flowers, and cycads.

If you are looking for something unusual to try, the best alternative to Thompson & Morgan, apart from the seed lists of specialist suppliers such as the Hardy Plant Society and Alpine Garden Society, is Chiltern Seeds, a small family firm in Cumbria. Its catalogue has no pictures, no glitz, but has at least 300 new additions every year.

Where else do you find 70 species of eucalyptus tree, 30 squilegias, dozens of different cacti, 50 sweet peas (including the wild, heavilyperfumed Lathyrus odoratus), witch hazels, and the deceptively beautiful "murderous poisones Boophone disticha?



Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens' from Thompson & Morgan



Aquilegias are good for arrangements (T&M)



Semi-exotic Passiflora caerula (T&M)



Hamamelis mollis from Chiltern Seeds

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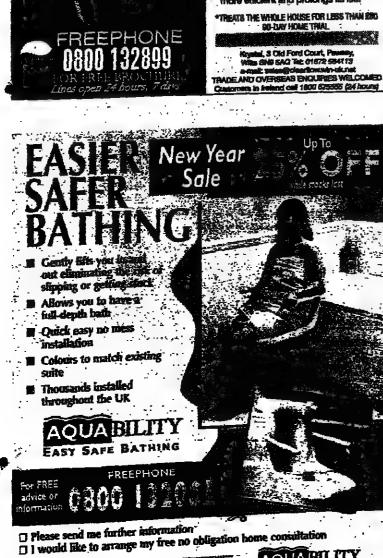
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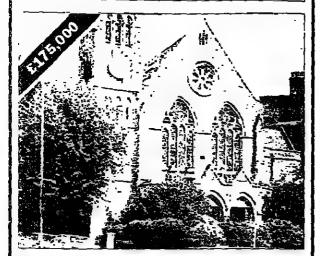
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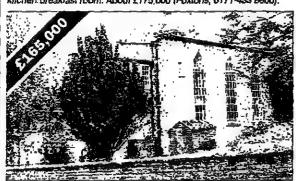
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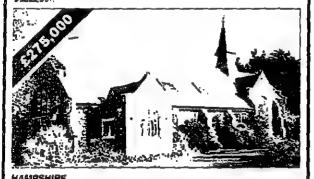
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Converted buyers see the light

Lack of quality houses for sale has put churches back in demand, says

المكذا من الأصل

Cheryl Taylor

hurch conversions became fashionable in the early 1980s when property developers and buyers, eager for something different, snapped up rundown churches going cheaply and turned them into characterful and unusual homes.

The Church of England and the Methodist Church soon realised there was money to be made from their redundant churches and chapels, and prices started to rise. It was common for a run-down church to fetch £500,000 to £1 million in central London in the late 1980s.

During the early 1990s, old church buildings had fallen out of vogue. mainly because of increased prices and the high cost of conversion. Now, agents report an increase in demand. largely because of a shortage of good quality houses for sale in many parts of the country.

Churches, usually located in the centre of towns and villages, are often interesting historical buildings, many with exposed beams, stone columns, arched Gothic windows and vaulted ceilings, and masses of light and space.

Most churches and chapels coming up for sale date from the Victorian period. Churches which are Grade I or Grade II* listed for their architectural merit are protected and cannot be converted or adapted.

Village chapels often have gardens and can make superb homes. Larger churches in inner cities are usually sold to property developers, who turn them into flats, often retaining architectural features, such as marble altars and stained-glass windows.

The Methodist Church has sold 7.000 chapels since 1932. It takes valuations and advice from local surveyors and advertises the property through estate agents. Nearly 100 chapels are said to be for sale around the country. The Church of England disposed of 1,453 churches between 1909 and 1996; about 166 of these were converted into homes. These days. however, the number of churches for sale has diminished. Stuart Deacon, of the Church

Commissioners, says: "Not every church building is suitable for conversion. A church which is away from other habitation might not be suitable for someone to live in: an



Graham Meehan, a property developer, in the one of the bedrooms of a home built inside the former All Saints Church in north London

inner-city church might be more appropriate." The process of change to residential use involves public consultation, so the sale of a church can take several years. "Churches vary widely. Some churches in central London have sold for more than Il million, others fetched negligible amounts," Mr Deacon says.

wo-thirds of the money raised after paying sale costs, including marketing expenses, goes towards funding the living Church, and onethird to the Church's Conservation Trust. Both the Methodists and the Church of England sell with restrictive covenants against use involving alcohol, sex shops, dance halls. amusements or gambling. The disturbance or removal of any grave. tombstone or memorial on the prop-

erty is also prohibited. Falling congregations and the high cost of maintaining old church buildings are the main reasons given by the Church of England for their disposal. The Roman Catholic

Church, on the other hand, says it

has opened more churches in England than it has closed since 1900. Sometimes, a parish will sell off

part of a church for conversion to fund renovation work on the rest of the building. The west end of the Church of St Saviour, in Walton Street, west London, is for sale at £1.7 million through Knight Frank, with outline planning consent for conversion to a 6.000 sq ft house. The rest of the church, with the chapel and altar. will continue to be used for worship.

The Raven Group of developers with architects Mittelman Caradoc-Hodgkins, have designed a house for the west end of the Victorian-Gothic church, built in 1840 by Gerage Bresevi. They plan to insert a sound-proofed wall dividing the church building in two.

Their design, which can be visualised via a computer model, incorporates a grand entrance hall with a sweeping staircase up to a gallery, three reception rooms, live bedrooms and a roof terrace overlooking Harrods. The price for the completed house is £2.7 million. Knight Frank, 0171-6398171.

THE CHURCH DEVELOPER

GRAHAM MEEHAN, a property developer, has converted 20 redundant churches into more than 100 flats and houses in London and Bristol since the early 1980s.

His projects, mainly in north London, include the United Reform Church in Highgate, St Clement's in Islington, and St Stephen's in Ealing, west London.

Mr Meehan, who runs the development company Marcacre, paid £150,000 for his first church, the 18thcentury United Reform Church in Highgate in 1982. He spent £600,000 converting the 10,000 sq ft building into 16 flats, which sold from £60,000 each for two bedrooms. mostly to young profe

are now worth about £175,000. Neil Squires, a design consultant, who has worked with Mr Meehan since the early 1980s, says the trend in church conversions is for bigger. more expensive units. "Fifteen years ago, people tried to cram as many flats as possible into a church. Now,

the approach is to create a smaller

number of larger, more upmarket, homes," he says. Their latest project, All Saints, Tytherion Road, Tufnell Park, is an example of the new generation of church conversions. The terrace of eight three and four-storey houses. within the 1820s church, each with its own landscaped garden, has almost sold out in less than a month.

TRADITIONALLY built with brick load-bearing walls, Bath stone dressings and slate roofs, the original building has exposed ceiling timbers, arched windows and stone columns. There are now 12ft-high ceilings, floors and doors in pitched pine and designer kitchens.

Prices of the two unsold houses are £260,000 for a 125-year lease on a three-bedroom house, and £295.000 for four bedrooms.

 Graham Meehan, 0171-491 3141. can also be consacted through the agent Science & Kent, 0171-207 2053.



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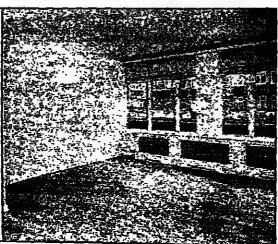
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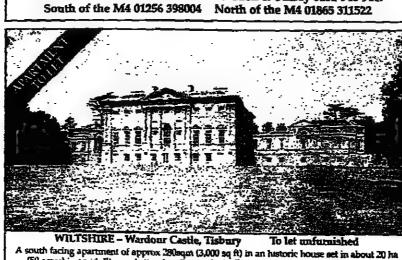
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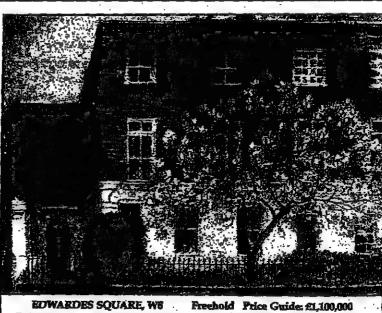
| clican, kit, s/c annexe with bed, bath, recep/kit, 2 garages, secinded mature gardens. WINCHESTER: 01962 863131 | | | | | | | | |
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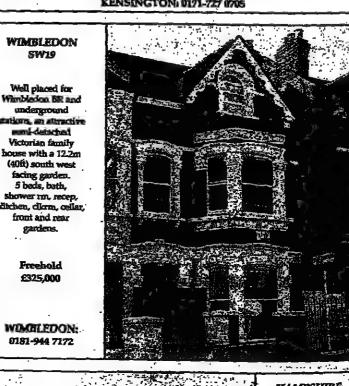
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Facing west, a gracious end-of-terrace Georgian house with elegant, well-proportioned cons and an artist's studio at the end of the garden. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 recept, kitchen, cellso utility xm, 2 clkmos, front and rear gardens, access to square gardens. KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705





HAMPSHIRE: Close to the the New Forest grazing land set in a 3 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kitche thiny rat, dole gar Price Guide: LYMINGTON:

01590 677233

When it's blossom time in Appledore

Set in the heart of a Kentish village, The Forstal's

elegant rooms have a feel of the Mediterranean

t is hard to miss The Forstal in Appledore. Drive through the Kent village and it stands four-square in the middle of the high street directly opposite the Swan pub. The prominence of the Grade II five-bedroom house was part of its attraction when it was bought by Carmen De Haan; its Spanish owner.

I wanted to live in an English: village with a close community." says Mrs De Haan, who had been living in a loth-century farmhouse on a 400-acre farm in Cranbrook before divorcing her English hus-band and moving in with their five children in 1984. "Despite the farm being so old and beautiful it was very isolated.

The Forstal was prominent and when I saw its red-stone courtyard at the back, the giant weeping wil-low and the wisteria, that was it."

The morning I went to see the house, the flatlands and weatherboardings of Kent were heavy with wet snow. The garden and paddock almost an acre) that Mrs De Haan eulogises were buried under six inches of Siberian-looking weather. I checked the scene from the openfired dining room window and took the estate agent's glossy-brochure

fter Mrs De Haan's first visit to the early Victorian red-brick house, she immediately put in an offer. The previous owner was a widow who had lived there for 50 years. The house had not been touched during her time.

"She hadn't done anything to it,"
Mrs De Haan says. "Imagine what
it was like. There was only an Aga: and a single sink in the kitchen. The central heating was terrible and the electrics were dangerous. She was very sad when she sold and regretted it terribly. She cried when she came back and wouldn't come inside."

Part of The Forstal dates from 1687 when it was a farmhouse and coach house on the road to London. The Forstal means "a farmyard in front of a house" which suggests its



The Forstal is Grade II listed with five bedrooms and stands in a prominent position in Appledore

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Forstei, Appledore, Kent Price: Offers at £550,000 Setting: Ashford 15 mins

away, London one hour by fast train from there. For schools, Benenden and Cranbrook not far away.

 Shopping: Smart antique shops and stores in Tenterden - or Paris, via Eurotunnel

 Entertainment: Golf at Tenterden, Walks on atmospheric Romney Marsh

10 mins away.

past position. Today's brick house was built between 1817 and 1840. Mrs De Haan has done up the house twice, most recently four years ago. The floorboards were replaced, as were the chimney tacks. The hallway was enlarge to give it more presence. Today it is as handsome as you would expect for such a fine facade and classic wooden decrway. The hall was a little narrow and mean so I took a



bit of the music room and made it look lovely. It feels right now. It's in proportion.

A tour of the children's five bedrooms on the first floor revealed that they were also all in proportion: large. Poster-covered and sofa-ed, each felt like a sitting room.

Some of the new reception room colours are less than restrained which is the way Mrs De Haan. born in Malaga, likes it. The downstairs room colours are outrageous - the deep blues, reds and ns," she says. "They are really bold but the rooms are strong and you can get away with it. They look good and reflect my Spanish nperament."

A further Spanish twist is seen in the 12 Don Quixote glazed tiles which dance along the wall above the Aga in the wooden-beamed kitchen. They were there, inexplica-



Mrs De Haan prepares food in the wooden-beamed kitchen and breakfast room (left) which reflects her Spanish ties as does the use of bold colours in the sitting room (above)

bly, when the De Haans moved in. I couldn't believe it, it was such a coincidence," says Mrs De Haan. They were in a straight line so I rearranged them into a zig-zag."

Today, with two children at university in London and three at Millfield boarding school, Mrs De Haan is looking to move back to Spain to be near her sister in Majorca. "Now that the children are growing up I am here complete-

ly on my own," she says. "I will look for a big old house in the hills of Majorca and also for a little place in Kent, maybe in Tenterden."

She will miss the beaches at St Mary's Bay, Dymchurch, Camber sands and Hythe. She will also miss the friendliness of village life and the walks along the Royal Military Canal which was built to repel a threat from Napoleon which did not materialise.

"I love old English houses. The Forstal is elegant and pretty. It is a relaxed family home and it has been kind to us. In the summer when the tourists come the front street can be a little noisy, but at the back in the garden with the pink and white blossom it is quite

ALEX WIJERATNE Agent: Savills (01732 455551)

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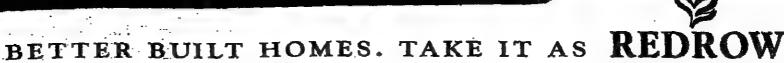


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Where to buy a slice of tropical paradise

favourite Caribbean island. He bought a home there. Firefly, high on a cliff on the island's northwest coast. It was there that he entertained British royalty and Hollywood VIPs, and he was buried in its garden in 1973.

The Caribbean has long been a popular destination for Britans. With regular direct flights from the UK to Barbados, Antigua and Jamaica, these British-orientated islands are the most popular for those seeking a retirement or second home in the Caribbean. They also attract the most property development.

JAMAICA

This is one of the largest of the Caribbean islands, and one of the most beautiful, with its lush mountains and white sand beaches. surrounded by a translucent blue sea. Foreign investment in property on the island is encouraged, but it is no tax haven.

At St Ann's Bay on the north coast, a new resort - including two international hotels and a 27-hole championship golf course - is being built on the 800-acre Drax Half Estate. A 100-berth marina

and a vacht club are planned. Villa plots overlooking the golf course and the sea cost from £45,000 to £75,000 for a half-acre plot. A luxury three-bedroom house can be built for about £150,000, excluding the cost of the land.

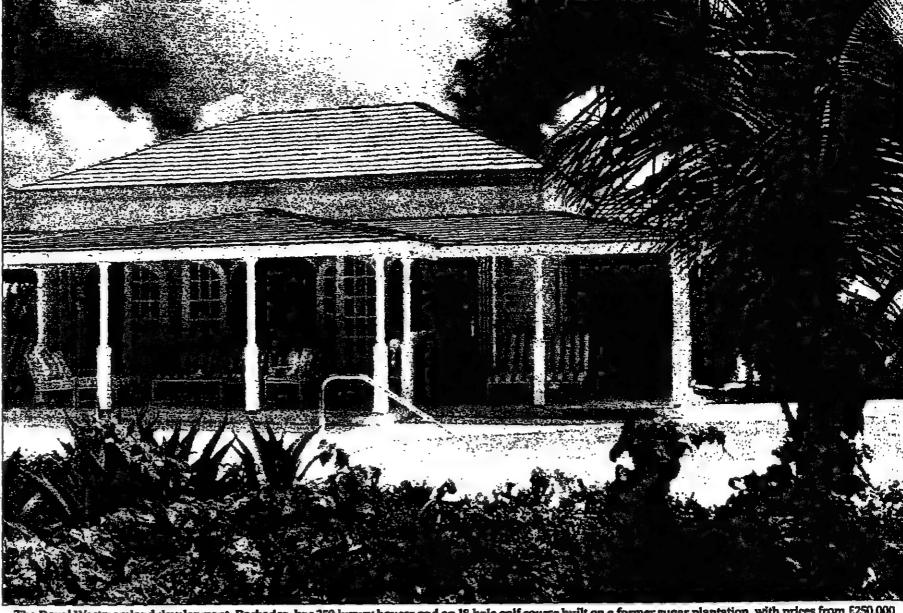
Property transfer tax is paid by the vendor, at 7.5 per cent of the sale price. Buying costs are about 4 to 5 per cent of the purchase price. larger, detached houses on the island, such as those at the Drax Hall Estate, can be let for £2,000 to £5,000 a week in the peak winter season. Rental returns are free of local taxes for the first seven years

BARBADOS

This is the most sophisticated of the Caribbean islands — and the most expensive. An enviable climate and friendly population are the obvious attractions of an island swathed in sugar cane and blessed with some of the Caribbean's finest beaches.

The property market is relatively stable, although prices are rising as building land becomes scarce. You could buy a one-bedroom flat there for under £100,000, but most homes cost a great deal more. Houses costing more than [] million are common at Sandy Bay and St James on the island's wealthy west coast, an area scattered with golf courses and expensive hotels

Barbados has a new leisure home development, the Royal Westmoreland, which has been created on 480 acres of former sugar plantation, in the hills above St James. The British-owned development includes 350 luxury houses around an 18-hole golf course, designed by Robert Trent



The Royal Westmoreland development, Barbados, has 350 luxury houses and an 18-hole golf course built on a former sugar plantation, with prices from £250,000

Jones Jr. Sixty houses with views over the golf course have been built and sold, mainly to British buyers.

Most of our purchasers are buying with a view to retirement. The average age is 55. Some are looking to retire here, others will spend the winter in their property. Most buy for the sports facilities and the outdoor life," says Julian Rooney, the managing director.

The former tennis star Virginia Wade recently paid £330,000 for a

two-bedroom house here. Other famous owners at Royal Westmoreland include David Lloyd and Ian Woosnam, who spent £1.3 million last year on a five-bedroom villa

overlooking the 18th fairway.
Prices start at £250,000, which buys a two-bedroom villa close to the clubhouse, with sun terraces and sea views. The detached courtyard villas, costing from £450,000, have three bedrooms, marble floors, coral stone walls, a private pool and landscaped gardens.

There are also a few larger, two storey colonial-style houses in half an acre. Built around leafy inner courtyards, with up to five bedrooms and a guest cottage, these cost from £770,000 to more than £1

On-site facilities include a tennis centre and a large leisure complex, with swimming pools, spa bath, a

There is no capital gains tax to pay on any profits when you sell your Barbadian home. There is a property transfer tax of 10 per cent of the purchase price incurred on buying and 8 per cent on selling. plus stamp duty and lawyers' fees of about 2 per cent. However, because of a Government concession, property tax is not levied on the sale or purchase of property at Royal Westmoreland.

This the largest of the Leeward Islands, has a dry climate and an arid landscape, scattered with forts and anchorages, including English Harbour, where Nelson once sheltered the British Fleet. During the 1980s the island, with its 365 beaches, flanked by palm

trees and turquoise seas, was at the hub of the Caribbean's building boom. Following the world recession, the property market slumped, leaving a giut of newly built homes.

'Most buyers Some of the island's best value property is at the want to retire new Jolly Harbour Marina on the west or spend the coast, near the capital, St John's. More winter there. than 500 water-front homes have They like been built by the Swiss developer Althe sports fred Erhart alongside canals or open waterways. Prices range from £76,000 facilities and to £96,000 for an outdoor life' air-conditioned

two-storey, twobedroom terraced house, with private jetty and mooring.

There are also a few prime beachfront plots available for villas built to individual specification. priced from £125,000. A three-bedroom villa with three

bathrooms, garage and marina berth can be built for £340,000, including the cost of the land, says Simon Maister of agent Investors

The 500-acre development has a shopping centre and a sports complex, with tennis, squash and

swimming pool, two beaches and an 18-hole golf course.

On the south coast of Antigua is St James's Club, once owned by the entrepreneur Peter de Savary. John German, of agent Cluttons, is asking £422,000 for Ronaldshay Villa, a luxury three-bedroom

house with three bathrooms, set high on St James's Hill with panoram-ic views. It comes with a cooling verandah to let the breeze through the highceilinged rooms, an acre of tropical gardens and its own swimming pool.
Service charges at the St James's

Club are around ting your home will help offset running costs. Typically, a at the St James's Club will fetch £3,000 a week in rental income in

the winter months. There is no income tax or capital gains tax to pay on Antigua. Allow about 5 per cent of the purchase price to cover stamp duty and legal

TURKS & CAICUS

The English-speaking island of Providenciales, the largest of the Turks & Caicos Islands, is famous for its beaches and clear water. It offers good scuba diving and fishing, year-round sunshine and all the advantages of a tax haven.

One of the few remaining British Crown Colonies, at the southern end of the Bahamas chain, the island can be reached in 90 minutes by plane from Milami, or direct from Milan.

Richmond Hill Estates is selling villa plots at Grace Bay Hills, close to the island's 18-hole champion-ship golf course, from £13,333 to £56,000 for a third of an acre. There is also a range of three and fourbedroom villas available at Turtle Bay Cove, priced from £176,006. Houses on the beach are more expensive. Expect to pay at least £650,000 for a three to fourbedroom house, with maid's quarters, private pool and exotic landscaped gardens. Cluttons is the

British agent. There are also uninhabited outer islands for sale in whole or part. Raw land starts at £50,000 an acre. Some of the islands have underground springs and wells, others

will need desalination plants. Those contemplating a move to a Caribbean island might also con: sider renting a home. A threebedroom place a short distance from the beach can be rented from £1.300 a month for a year.

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Drax Hall Estate; 001 809 972 2438 (Iamaica): Investors in Property. 0131-905 5511 (Antigua); Royal Westmoreland, 0171-355 5028 (Bar-(Antigua and Provide

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION - THE TIMES

Three cases of 10 year old whisky to be won

Today The Times brings you the opportunity to buy tickets for one of the most important events in the world of bridge, The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, and the chance to win . a superb case of The Macallan whisky. There are three first prizes, each

consisting of 12 bottles of The Macallan 10 Year Old malt whisky, worth approximately £260 a case. There are also 40 runners-up prizes of Macallan playing cards and miniature bottles of The

Macailan 10 Year Old. The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship is regarded by many as the most prestigious event in the bridge calendar and the one which all players most aspire

Now in its 26th year, the championship will be held next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the White House Hotel. Albany Street, London. Thirty-two of the world's top names will be playing, including bridge's most famous player. Omar Sharif. Last year's winners were Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth from America.

In addition to the title itself and prize money totalling £10,000, competitors will be playing for the championship trophy and a case each of The Macallan which is renowned for its full-bodied flavour and distinctively mellow taste.



Call the hotline number below to book your tickets quoting The Times. You will automatically be entered into a free prize draw. If you already have tickets, you can enter the draw by ringing the hotline and leaving your name and address.

The Macalian International Bridge Pairs Champlonship will be held at The White House Hotel, Albany Dates of the tourna

January 22-23-24 Prices are as follows: To attend all sessions: £35 Wednesday, 5.30pm-11pm:

Thursday, 12noon-4pm;

£12.50; 5.30pm-11pm: £12.50 All day Thursday £20 Friday, 1pm-6pm £17.50 Tickets to be collected from the box office at the White

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CHANGING TIMES

SELLING **POINTS** FITTED

KITCHEN

or some people, choos-ing a fitted kitchen can rank with those other high-stress events of getting married or moving house. Whereas once you might have impressed the neighbours with a bank of snuggly fitting units, today everyone has them, and people expect to find a better kitchen than

theirs when they move house. people refit the kitchen only about every ten years, selecting from the ever-expanding range of materials, colours and styles is taxing. Should you opt for a traditional look or country cottage? High-tech or maybe stainless steel for an industrial feel?

And if you go for one of today's favourite styles, such as the cool-colour Shaker look, will it become passe? Will the fad for hanging your chairs on the wall have worn off in live years' time when you may want to sell?

Although the choice of kitchen is highly personal, there are styles that are widely popular and less likely to date. Traditional and country cottage kitchens in pine and oak are perennial favourites, say retailers, while at the higher priced end of the market, the hand-painted look also has a long lasting appeal, say comparties such as Smallbone of Devizes.

If you are selling your house it is not just the style and colour of the cupboards that will catch the eye of potential buyers, or whether you have any of those fiendishly dever little units that swivel out to become ironing



Will the fad for Shaker-style fitted kitchens have worn off when you come to sell?

boards and dining tables. Quality brand name electrical appliances are just as important. But a cheap oven thrown in as part of a special offer package is unlikely to

Fitted kitchens may now be expected as standard by househunters but, say some estate agents, a new kitchen with up-to-the-minute appliances will top up your property's asking price.

If you want to ensure you are ahead of the field in your choice of kitchen, you should opt for more colour variants and paint finishes, such as the

which are tipped as the coming thing. Magnet, for example, is

soon to launch a home-painting service so that its custom ers can have exactly the effect they desire. The company has also introduced kitchen styles with interchangeable colour panels, so that you can ring the changes.

mong other kitchen companies, the unfit-Led fitted look is the way forward, provided you have a large enough space. Dressers, island units with chopping boards, and a ceiling tack for your pans and

bunches of dried flowers, can be used to give a more individual touch to your

However, the stainless steel and high-tech styles are likely to remain more for city dwellers and the Shaker look may neak but is here to stay, say retailers.

An average spend on a kitchen at a high street or DIY store, such as Homebase, is £2,000 to £4,000, plus about £1,000 for installation. The price of a hand-painted Smallbone kitchen starts at about £7,500.

CLARE STEWART

PROPERTY

TWO OF only five Lutyens built townhouses in Londonare for sale as one residence, Extending to some 40 rooms in total, the houses in Great Peter Street, SWI, were built for the Honourable Francis Maciaren MP and his sister, Lady Norman, in 1911. They were most recently used as the headquarters of the Roral Development Commission The asking price is about \$3.25 million. Contact Knight Frank (0171-824 8171) or King Sturge & Co (0171-493 4933).

THE provisions of the 1996 Housing Act will come into force on February 28. All new tenancies will automatically be Assured Shorthold Tenancies, unless rents are more than £25,000 per year. Land-lords will be able to reposses defaulted on two months' rent instead of three, and also to evict tenants for anti-social behaviour."

■ THE sales office for the 40. one and two-bedroom-luxury apartments being built by Chetsea Village plc in the grounds of Chelsea Football Club in southwest London opened this week. The apar ments should be finished in summer, and will include underground parking Prices from £155,000 to £220,000 Contact Savills (0171-385 2496).

■ THE strengthening of the pound has stirmulated demand for property overseas, according to Hamptons Internation al. Meanwhile, prices on the Continent have remained stagnant. David King of Hamptons says: "From a low point of about Fr7.5 to the pound, we are now looking at Fr9, making French property substantially better value to

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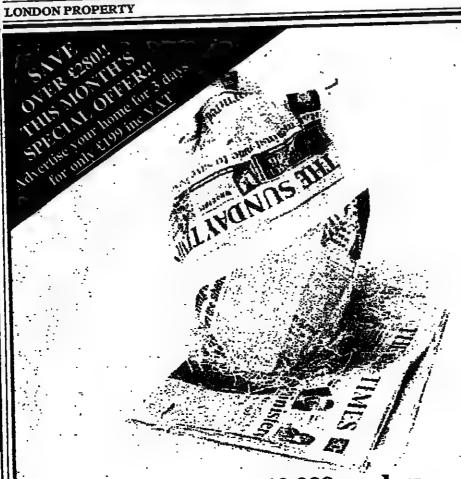
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honour, bearing the date 1915. These giant-sized gold coins are all dated 1915 and weigh in at 13,9636 grams of 98,6% pure gold. Their character is larger than that of a British Gold Five Pound piece, which the Royal Mint currently sell for £749.00 for new-Collectors and investors are

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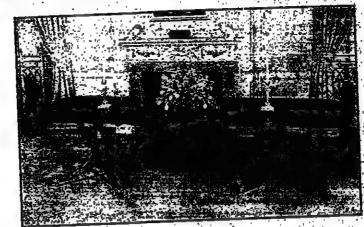
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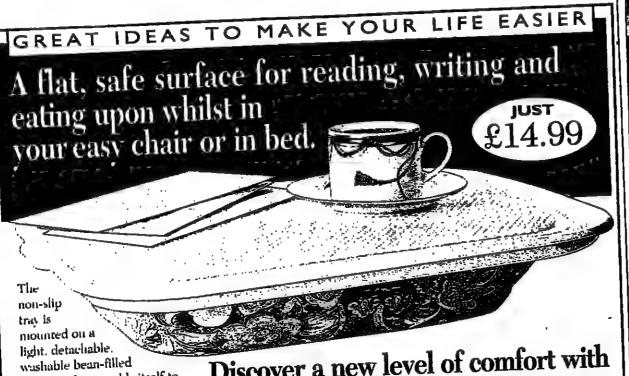
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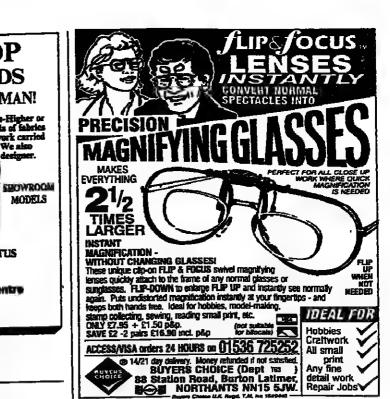
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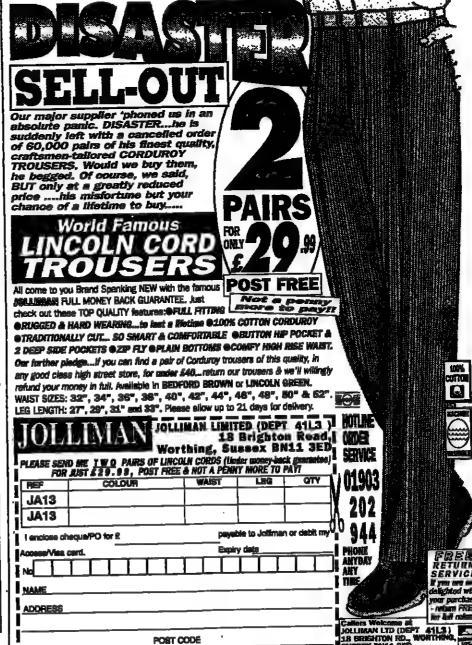
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Keeping pigeons

has outgrown its

cloth-cap image

very day in summer Molly Holt spends time at her cabin on an afforment next to her pigeon lofts. "I go there at six in the morning and come home at seven at night. It's idyllic," she says, "A little haven where I can be with the pigeons, watch them flying around and listen to their cooing. They are therapeutic." Ms Holt, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, is one of about

\$0,000 pigeon racing enthusiasts, many of whom will be flocking to Blackpool this weekend for the 25th British Homing World Show of the Year at the Winter Gardens. But what is it that inspires

someone to keep pigeons? Ms Holt discovered the joys of keeping pigeons ten years ago. "I used to be scared of them, but a friend kept pigeons and his interest transferred to me. And once you have got the bug it's hard to

get away from it." she says.

Ms Holt, or Red Hen as she is known to her readers in British Homing World. 2 weekly publication for pigeon enthusiasts, keeps 50 birds of varying breeds, including the racing varieties Herman. Busschaert and Verheye. She also keeps a few fantails, a breed that many people have for their appearance rather than racing ability.

All Ms Holr's birds have their own nest boxes, in a number of homemade lofts (a new loft measuring l8ft x 6ft. which could hold up to 80 pigeons, would cost about 27NO-280N

During the racing season. from April to September, she spends more than £10 a week on them, which includes food maize, tic beans, maple peas and wheat - and the fee for each bird she enters in a race (last year it cost 47p per pigeon). Each bird is also vaccinated against paramyxo virus, a disease that can leave the pigeons debilitated.

Ms Holt's birds all have a name. Her favourite is Conqueror, because he has raced so well. Another bird originally called Ayatit ("I hate it")



Molly Holt, known to many of Britain's 80,000 pigeon racing enthusiasts as Red Hen, with one of the 50 birds at her lofts in Wakefield. West Yorkshire. "They're therapeutic," she says

because of his stubbornness, had a name change when he won a race. He is now Aluvit. She has never bought any pigeons; she has either been given pigeons or bred them. The prices normally range E10 to more than £100,000 for a good racing pigeon. Ms Holt says that

pigeon magazines carry adverts selling them and clubs often hold pigeon auctions. This month is breeding time in Ms Holt's lofts, "I put the cock and hen together and

about seven or eight days later the female will lay an egg. They make very good parents and can stay together for life. They take turns to sit on the egg. Eighteen to 20 days after laying, the egg hatches.

The baby is called a squeaker, and its initial diet is pigeon's "milk", which is feed the parents have eaten and then regurgitated, Ms Holt says. Five or six days after birth she puts a registration

ring on the squeaker's right foot so that it can be identified for the rest of its life. Pigeons normally live for about 14-15 years but can go on past 20.

At one month old, she takes the bird from its parents and a couple of weeks later starts training it for racing. At first, the pigeon is taken a few hundred yards from the loft, but gradually the distance is built up. Her birds start racing from six months old and can go on until they are nine years. Distances covered in races

vary from 50 to 200 miles. "Nobody really knows what brings them home. That is what is so fascinating about the sport," Ms Holt says.

Paul Smith, a pigeon consul-tant, got the bug for keeping pigeons when he was eight years old. His father and grandfather both raced them. The birds were in an old shed at the bottom of the garden. 1 used to sit for hours with them," he says.

Mr Smith kept pigeons as pets for about four years efore starting to race them. As his passion for them grew he became both a racer and a

In two weeks, four of Mr Smith's pigeons will be taking years ago. "It is a great."

on hundreds of others from all over the world in a 375-mile, \$1 million race from Gariep Dam, near Colesberg, north to Sun City — somewhat dispelling the cloth-cap image of

pigeon keeping. In Biackpool this weekend, nearly 2,500 pigeons will be exhibited in 33 showing classes, including young and old pigeons, racing pigeons and cocks and hens. The judges look for alert eyes, shape of head, good feather condition and size and stance of the

There will also be about 160 trade stands selling anything Mr Smith has been going to the show since it began 25 opportunity for funciers to buy whatever they need and it's a wonderful introduction for those who have never been involved in keeping pigeons,"

CHRISTIAN DYMOND ■ British Homing World Show of the Year, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, Today 9am-opm and tamorrow 9am-3 30pm, £2.50, children Rayal Pigeon Racing Association, 01452 713529 Paul Smith (Regency Land)

Publications: British Pigeon Racing Cazette (monthly) £1,20; Racing Pigeon (weekly) 55p, Racing Pigeon Pictorial (monthly) £1,95.

Our cat is two years old and since a kitten has vomited undigested food about once a month. He does not look ill. Please comment. He may be a greedy car

A who sometimes bites off more than his stomach can accommodate. Or. he may have intermittent fur balls and a partial blockage of his intestine. Discovering the cause of an intermittent maifunction is always difficult. Start keeping a diary. Make notes of when he vomited time of day, day of week, how long after food, last meal and drink. Keep this up for three months, then check your records. If you don't reach a conclusion see your vet, and take the diary with you.

We have five guinea pigs — granny, father, mother and two youngsters. From time to time one or other develops an intense itch, caused by a mite. Bathing in medicated shampoo helps and we disinfect their pens regularly, but cannot get rid of the parasite. Any ideas?

A Guinea pigs are plagued by the mite Trinacarus caviae, which is often present on healthy youngsters without causing any skin problems. If they become unwell for any reason - or when pregnancy and birth put extra stress on a female cavy - the mite population increases and the itch starts, and sometimes causes a serious loss of weight Medicated baths and a thorough cleaning of the cages will control the mites, but a few are left behind. A relatively new treatment involves injecting a parasiticide which is excreted through the skin and reaches parts other shampoos may not.

Glendower, our Penbroke corgi, sleeps on his back, four legs in the air. Why does he choose this position. Comfort or display?

A one-word explanation might be contentment. When the soft part of his abdomen is exposed he is demonstrating confidence while in a vulnerable position.

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JAMES ALLCOCK Readers should write to The Times Ver, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN, Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

am a sucker for beforeand-after pictures. What could be more seductive than a photograph of a pizza scars and red pustules replaced by the same face without a mark? Such pictures litter the bro-

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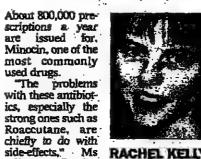
skincare products that claim to "biologically exfoliate and oxygenate the skin, gradually removing the blemished lay-ers which are replaced by healthy skin", so curing acne. All this might sound like a fancy facial, more at home in a beauty column than one about

alternative remedies. But the woman chemist behind the treatment, Sujata Jolly, says her patients are those for whom conventional medicine has failed, some over 20 years. She dismisses conventional treatments, whether over-thecounter preparations such as

anti-bacterial skin-washing creams, soaps and lotions and preparations using sulphur or benzoyl peroxide. "Most of them overdry the skin, making it highly sensitive and red Benzoyl peroxide burns the surface of the skin, leaving a plastic-like film. The patient thinks the skin is greasy when, in fact, it has dried up.

Nor are antibiotics the answer, she says, Drugs such as tetracyline work by reducing skin bacteria and inflammation. They reduce the production of seburn and limit the amount of keratin blocking the glands' ducts, and clear secondary infection.

Doctors may also prescribe retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative rubbed on the skin, or anti-microbial treatments.



posedly unblocking Jolly says. Doubts were raised about Minocin in. the ducts. Then a mysterious, unnamed agent January last year after a report introduces oxygen, killing the in the British Medical Jourbacteria. The treatment also nal linked the drug with two speeds up skin regeneration. deaths, 11 cases of an arthritisshe claims, and leaves behind a protective coating which like condition and 16 cases of liver damage. Conventional prevents further spots. doctors and dermatologists Ms Jolly retains an Eastern

largely dismissed the report.

Ms Jolly's solution is twomystery about the ingredients for the products made by Dépêche Mode Laboratories part. I saw her at the Hale Clinic in Regent's Park, northby herself and her husband, west London, where she began Parmod. · · · brushing on a foaming I was left with my mask. milk cleanser, removed later

lying on the couch in a darkened room listening to music for 35 minutes. Then Ms Jolly

What it is: skincare side effects 🖪 Advantages: no known experience.

Oxy-Peel

products that biologically exfoliate the skin and, it is claimed, heal acne, avoiding the need for conventional skin treatments that have

side effects and pleasant to

■ Disadvantages: no clinical trials and dismissed

■ Cost: E40 for a session of

removed the mask to examine whether I needed further treatment: a second "amino acid and enzyme" mask which, she claims, can help improve patchy pigmentation, and post-acne scarring; or an "alkted acne scars and crusty skin-

In the event, I needed just the first mask. "See for your self Look in the mirror," she said: Yes, my skin did seem lighter and brighter. She gave me a bottle of the foaming milk to take away. 2 zap-it bottle to treat spots, and "Revitale cream special" to

ow I hope it works. I have tried and aban-L doned antibiotics in the past for the reasons which Ms Jolly outlined, and am living witness to the reddening and drying effects of many over-the-counter treatments.
Following the treatment my skin does seem less spotty, but

it is early days and Ms Jolly says I need several more visits. My only caveat is the complete dismissal of such treatment by conventional experts. Dr Ian White, consultant dermatologist at St Thomas' Hospital, London, has never heard of Oxy-Peel.

There are so many prod-ucts like this about," he says. Everything from shark bile to tea-tree oil. The fact is that you need data and trials to prove this, whereas most of these alternative remedies rely on anecdote."

 For details of the nearest therapist, call 01628 74641. Sujata Jolly, Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London WW 3HE (0171-631 0156).

t may seem trivial when compared to other people's misfortunes, but I am in a quandary I have nobody to leave my

This was brought home recently when I was asked to nominate three people who would get my death-in-service benefit after I die, thereby bestowing four times my annual salary on whoever I might

And then there is my house, the collection of dolls' houses and the Jack Russell terrier, who is beyond

Three of my cousins died in accidents in their twenties and the newspapers are full of people who fail off mountains, are electrocuted by the lawn mower or meet other untimely ends. So it seemed sensible, therefore, not to put it off any longer, but to make a will and not to leave my loved ones squabbling

over my estate.

As I have no children, the obvious choice for a legacy would be the man in my life, but since we tend to go everywhere together and his driving rather calls to mind making a will, it would seem much more sensible to have a Plan B.

Where there's a will, they want be in it It is Plan B that is the problem. It was particularly fond s not that I do not have any of, realised I had not

is not that I do not have any relatives - being half-Irish I have droves of them - but who is the most deserving?

I made a list of nieces (five) and nephews (three) and other young relations, but then started crossing out those who had failed to fit my inheritance guidelines. The impertinent ones were the first to go. The pen also went through the niece who sneered at my collection of dolls houses ("but what are they for?"), the niece who refused to turn her music down ('you're just old") and the nephew who said

books were boring.

Another line went through the young relative, an otherwise lovely girl, who recently received a police caution for smoking what my father insists on calling marryjew-arna". What she obviously needs is less money, not more, since we now know what she spends it on.

Then I came to a young niece I

spoken to her for a

while and rang to ask if she had liked her Christmas

"Oh yah, lovely, thank you Auntie Mary." There was a pause. Then she said: "What was it

She had received a car from her mother and a mobile telephone from her father and my carefully chosen gift must have seemed paltry by comparison. The best thing for her is not a large bequest. but a good slapping and the sooner

Two of the nieces also have rich parents, and since there are only two of them they can both look forward to about a million quid each - and that is at today's prices. My family has been obsessed by

wills, their own and other people's, since Uncle Arthur was killed in Tobruk when a Naafi tea urn fell

PERSONAL LIFE

His gravestone inscription said 'killed in action" and since he was running for a consignment of Red Cross doughnuts, I suppose there was some truth in it.

Being Irish, a nurse and a believer, my mother has no fear of death and often talks about "when I'm gone", usually while she is sitting by the fire smoking her

l tell her not to worry because only the good die young. She has talked about her own will for so long that it has become a family joke ("let's grease the stairs to-night", etc). The will is also changed on a regular basis, my sisters and I flitting through it from time to time according to the suitability of our boyfriends. I have had more comebacks than Gary

This will neurosis has been

sister keeps hers on the bedside table. making it easily accessible and soon altered should

anyone offend her. She spends a fortune at the solicitor's. She is also a great housekeeper - gets divorced. keeps the house - so she won't be needing anything from me.

t the moment, if I die without a will, my earthly goods will automatically go (via the taxman) to my parents and, charming though they are, they have a large house and do not need the money. Thanks to compulsory sport and a decent private education, my four siblings are in the same position.

So what are we left with? Charity, I suppose. I dug out a table of charines that benefit from wills. The last annual count ran thus: the RNLI (£38 million); Imperial Cancer Research (£32

Campaign (£32 million): the National Trust (£24 million) and the RSPCA (£23 million). Now, these are fine organisations, but I balk at the thought of my money disap-pearing into a large pot with lots of other people's.

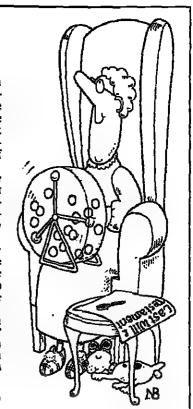
مكذا من الأصل

I cannot leave it to Jumble (the Jack Russell) because I am against leaving money to individual ani-mals and, as she only eats 50pworth of food a day, the money would long outlast her.

So what I really want is for someone, some day, to think of me fondly and say, "Good old Auntie Mary, she helped me get to Cambridge, play the piano, made me what I am today, etc".

Ideally that someone should be a Jack Russell fan who likes dolls' houses. Applications should reach me before the appointment with Raymond Harris, my solicitor, on January 29.

MARY GOLD



What shall we do with mother?

The choice of who should care for an elderly parent is fraught with guilt, says Jill Parkin

he world was differ-ent in Eileen House's day. Home was a place where there was a woman looking after a husband, children and maybe an old parent, too. Increasingly today, those parents are in another sort of home. More than half a million of our old people are in long-stay care. Only a quarter of them have any say in a decision which is often fraught with guilt for their grown-up children.

Mrs House is 80. She looked after her widowed father at home for seven years, she moved house to help bring up some of her grandchildren, and she nursed her sick husband until she had to go to hospital herself. He died in a residential home three weeks after she became a long-stay

resident in a nursing home. "I always vowed I wouldn't be a burden on my children." she says. She came to Purley View Nursing Home in Pur-ley, south London, in March last year. Her daughter, Geraldine Marsh, chose it.

"My house just isn't suitable for her disability. I've got steps, steps, steps. Mum can't be alone for very long, and she needs nursing," says Mrs Marsh. "Life is a struggle. It I' didn't work we wouldn't be in. very good shape. We have a two-bedroom house and my son lives at home."

They are a mother and daughter of our time - full of concern for each other, seeing each other a lot, but living in different worlds. As usually happens, the decision was taken at a moment of crisis: Mrs House was in hospital after a series of falls and a stroke. After discussion with her sisters, Mrs Marsh began to search for a suitable home.

She did a thorough job, seeing ten homes within visiting reach, and she chose well. but there is still a note of justification in her voice when she talks about the "steps." steps, steps". The guilt factor has grown almost as fast as the care industry which looks after our old people.

can Lewis of the Elderly Accommodation Counsel, an information service on accommodation for old people, says: "Relatives should remember that al-though the older person may not feel very happy at the idea. in nine out of ten cases, if one chooses the right home, within a few months they are happier than they have been for ages. In a good home, they get companionship, cooking and cosseting. People really should not feel guilty. It's a bit like sending children to boarding school. They cry their eyes out when they go but by half-term they don't want to leave."

With Mrs House and her daughter there was no actimony, but often the very subject is taboo, says Mrs Lewis. "Broaching such a move seems to cause almost as much embarrassment as discussing the possibility of a death in the family. The younger people will not bring the matter up for fear of upsetting their elders. And the older people will not admit that they cannot cope."

More and more families are having to broath the subject and make the decision. According to Lang and Buisson, healthcare market analysts, we now have 1,090,000 people aged over 85, compared with 472,000 in 1971. We have half a million old people in long stay care, compared to 270,000 in 1970. We no longer all live

Caring for elderly parents in child is at school, so the



Eileen House and her daughter Geraldine Marsh in Purley View Nursing Home. "I vowed I wouldn't be a burden on my children," says Mrs House

the family has not completely died out, though it may not always go all the way to the grave. Nigel and Angela Best now live in her mother Betty's house in West Sussex. Mr Best, a builder, has turned a detached garage into a granny annexe with alarms and intercom in case Betty, 75, has a

"It has worked well for all of us," says Mrs Best, who is at home with two small children. My mother had a stroke and was seriously considering sell-ing up to buy sheltered accommodation. This house was far too big for her. We'd just had another baby and needed more space but couldn't afford it. My mother has helped us out and we're here for her. I don't know what will happen in the future, but I'm going to be at home until the younger

arrangement should last a few

Peter and Clare Dobbs, who live a few miles away, are wondering if their similar arrangement may be coming to an end. They bought a large vicarage jointly with Mr Dobbs's parents, who lived in one part of it. "It meant they saw their grandchildren growing up, we knew they were okay, and we had babysitters, as well as a lovely house with a big garden for a relatively

small mortgage," he says. Then his mother died and his father, who is 81, has gradually deteriorated well beyond the babysitting point. "We used to have a rule," says Mrs Dobbs, "that it was two independent households coming and going as they pleased. It's different now."

She, as the one who works from home, now shops for her

father-in-law and takes a hot meal in to him once a day. She does his washing and pays her cleaner for an extra hour a week to do his rooms.

"He has become our responsibility," she says. "From the point of view of his welfare, the arrangement is still a good one. I can't imagine that he would ever leave us for a residential home."

rs House, how-

ever, chose otherwise. "I accepted the decision because I wanted to save the burden on my children," she says. "I don't want them to be worn into the ground. When I was in my flat. Geraldine was phoning four times a day and she was coming in a lot. She was making herself ill and I didn't like watching her so

coming from work, see me, and get on the bus to go home. She comes twice a week. She was coming every day, but I stopped her because she was getting so worn out."

Long-stay care need not mean the end of family care, according to Jenny Stiles, the director of the Relatives Association, a charity for people with relatives in long-stay care. She says those running homes can help by making relatives feel more welcome.

"Many relatives feel they have failed the resident when they give up personal caring, even if no other course was possible," she says. "Often they have very mixed emotions: they want the home to look after the person, but they don't want to be cut out

completely." Coming to a nursing home

"Now she can get off the bus wasn't what I wanted: I'd never thought about it," says Mrs House. "But Geraldine made sure I came to a good one. When the other residents go, I miss them. They are like an extended family, the people I stop to chat to on my way to and from my room."

The world has changed. An extended family was once children, parents and grandparents. Now it is the care industry as well.

● The Relatives Association (0171-916 6055) is a charity for those with an elderly relative or friend in long-term care. It offers advice and support, as well as working for better standards of care.

The Elderly Accommodation Counsel (0181-742 1182) is a charity offering information on homes, sheltered and retirement housing. It does not recommend establishments or place people, but tries to fit the home to the

In death, we can find life

Ruth Gledhill on consolation and

hope in an Anglo-Catholic Mass



months som Downs,

being prod-ded by various newsletters and the occasional gift envelope dropped through the door by the faithful laity of the local parish church, and I could no longer ignore the call to check it out. It was with a sense of subliminal suburban joy that I surveyed the little red-brick, low-roofed mid-war church with its manicured lawn and cultivated flowerbeds

in the heart of Nork. Surrey. The gratification was short-lived, however, although the sense of belonging remained. Because, as is so often the case, behind the façade of serene normality. real life in the suburbs is as filled with tragedy, trauma, grief and sorrow as in the most outwardly deprived area of any inner city.

Rev William Gulliford, curate of the neighbouring parish. This was because for four years the parish of

St Paul's has been living with the terminal illness of the wife of the Rev Peter Brooks, its vicar. Elaine Brooks. like millions of others, had fought a brave battle against cancer, and at times it had seemed she might win. But at the last the disease gained the she died later that

at St Paul's day. Father Brooks, an Anglo-Catholic, had told me of his wife's illness over the telephone. My instant response had been that I could not attend the church that day, and certainly could not write about the service. In the circumstances, I could not conceive of awarding stars for anything, let alone for "spiritual high". I almost begged not to go. But he insisted. "Life must go on," he said. I felt ashamed for my lack of faith.

The service was remarkable. The liturgy, inspired. by the Orthodox faith, was an adaptation of that used by monks at the Crawley Down monastery on the Surrey-Sussex border, an order devoted to prayers for unity. And while the Mass was based firmly in the Tractarian or Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England, many other traditions were also united there. For example, the choir had long since abandoned formal robes. Instead, they wore sweatshirts in the colour of red wine, the golden flame of the Holy Spirit emblazoned on the front. These sweatshirts, designed by the vicar, have ILG (01737.353849).

proved so popular that many in the congregation wore them as well.

The sanctuary lamp was lit that day in thanksgiving for the vicar's family. The atmosphere was muted and sorrowful, although hope was there. In the newsletter, Father Peter had written: "I will not be around today because Elaine's life is drawing close to the end." But the church would continue to be open, with daily morning prayer as usual

and evening prayer if enough were interested. The curate, Father William, sat before the high altar, the vicar's son Richard, as thurifer, swinging Byzantine incense. Through the sweet-smelling clouds of smoke, I could make out a woman MC and various acolytes, including two girl taperers, a boat boy and a crucifer. They had processed down the aisle as the congregation sang the Gloria. after a member of the choir led the confession and ings from Isaiah and the

Acts of the Apostles. Today for us has a



Father William

the proclamation of the message of the resurrected Christ, who comes and stands with us each week to be in our midst and affirm the message and resurrection of hope in

He preached on the Resurrection which followed Good Friday, and its message for all in the parish that day. "I cannot say I am pleased to be with you today. In normal circumstances I would not be here. But I am pleased to be able to do something for Father Peter and the family." It was the feast day of the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist, he said, and the collect had spoken of surrender. "The baptism of Christ is the symbol of Christ's surrender of himself. As we grow into our own baptisms we discover what it is to surrender

ourselves." Afterwards, we said the Creed and responded to the intercessory prayers. The congregation joined in the peace. Many surrendered to their tears but the Mass ended with communion and a sense that after so much pain, there could be peace. St Paul's Church, Warren

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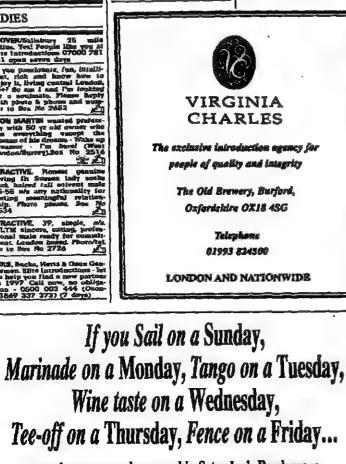
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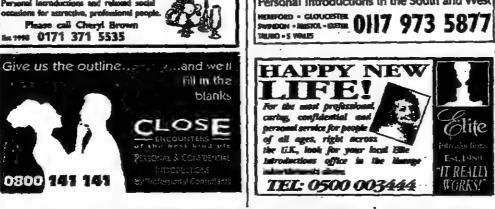
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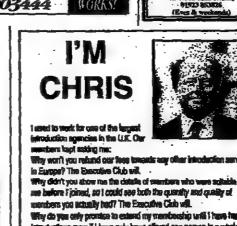
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The move by the editor of Country Life to establish the birthday suit as the height of rural fashion is surely doomed

The only ray of sunshine in what is proving to be a bleak, drab winter out here on the eastern bulge of Britain has been the centenary edition of Britain has been the centenary edition of Country Life magazine. For a chap who spends much of his working day alone, with the only shapely things visible through the window being the round rumps of his carthorses or the vast bulk of his pig, the decision by the editor to allow the "girls in pearls" to be photographed from angles hitherto unthinkable has to be roundly applauded.

Where once the photographer was

Where once the photographer was never allowed to focus on anything lower than a lady-like neckline, we are now treated to naked images which descend far enough down the body to make visible that place which is normally only ever exposed by bending labourers. In another image, a chunk of thigh draped in pearls is laid before us like an adorned loin of lamb on a butcher's slab.

Where will all this undress end? Will the advertisers follow Country Life's editorial example and, instead of showing views of country houses for sale, offer us a revealing snapshot of the cupboard

Where will all this undress end?

under the stairs? I am sorry if this appreciation does not comply with political correctness, but we lads in the country do not have the daily dose of such stuff which those who travel to work by London Underground can expect. We have none of those iniliating rides past an escalatorful of Demi Moore. So allow us, please, this one indulgence, once a century.

Of course, this move by Country Life to establish the hirthday suit as the height of rural fashion is doomed. Barbara Cartland has said, "It is very sad how everything has become sordid these days", and women's groups have described it as a huge step backwards. And now I must join in the condemnation. Not on the grounds of scantiness or immodesty, but because the sight of naked flesh at this time of the year, in the country, is a herrayal of everything the country life is truly about. Purely in the interests of research, I have taken my

to these pictures, and I can tell you ty that nowhere on the bodies of these girls is to be seen pimple; not so much as a hair standing on end,

of focus caused by

the chattering of

the girl's teeth sending shivers down the body. No. these are not "country" pictures at all: this is not "country" life, it is "shut up in a warm and cosy studio in the West End" life. And I am jealous, because there have been days this winter when I would have

DOWN TO EARTH



could switch on the central heating and use some of the vast oil reserves in the tank which, if suddenly allowed on to the open market. would upset trading on the Amsterdam

spot market, but I have always believed

you can only extract the best from country life by doing things the hard

way, no pain no gain, and so I hone my

len moments be-

tween chopping wood, filling log

fires. Of course, I

are and shun the override button on the pig for a few hours in the warmth. Life heating timeswitch. has been nothing

In nearly 15 years of chopping winter firewood. I have learnt a lot about timber and even more about the people who self it. Dealers in firewood are quick to spot a sucker, and an early purchase of mine was from the farmer's son who promised me fine logs. They looked good, were nicely sawn, and arrived in what looked like a generous heap.

more practised eye than mine would have realised that timber and growing is unlikely to perform well in the fireplace. On strolling down the lane. I came across the stumps, oozing sap, from which these logs had been freshly cut, Had I been quick, I could have stuck my logs together, married them to the stump and that tree would still be flourishing. So now I cut and dry

my own. At least one tree a year gets blown over, so I do not have to wrestle with my conscience about felling healthy stock. And, of course, windfalls are replaced with saplings. You can't do that with heating oil.

But chopping your own wood takes its toll on joints and limbs. Hands grow horny where the chill handle of the axe has been tightly gripped, fingers become blistered where the sledgehammer has slipped while trying to drive a wedge into a knotty chunk of oak, legs are bruised where hunks of timber have fallen from the saw horse.

Country life, at this time of year, is about pain. That there is no hint of suffering in the pictures of these undressed girls suggests that the editor has betrayed his true, country readers.

So, I challenge him to take the girl who appears to be wearing nothing but an item of pearled jewellery about her thighs, remove even that bit of modest cladding, and if beneath it we can see a bruise I shall be satisfied that these are true country gals, and that this fine magazine is in safe hands.

Press a sweet song on the old apple tree

The ancient wassails draw attention to the decline

of fruit orchards in Britain. Brian Pedley reports

or just one night a for development. Newer sites year, the creekside village of Stoke Gabriel European Union kicks up one unholy racket. The Devon sky, unusually heavy with the threat of snow, is suddenly rent by shotguns firing blanks and the clanging of pots and pans. The local wading birds are startled into an indignant chorus. The cider flows and everyone singsand cheers, including the children. As with any wassail worthy of the name, the effect is magical.

Each year, around Twelfth Night, Stoke Gabriel people summon up encient forces to ensure an abundant crop; of apples in the orchard that has been theirs for centuries. This year's celebration took place last Saturday.

The wassall goes back to

winter," says Trudy Turnell, countryside interpretation of ficer with South Hams council. "As well as waking the trees from their winter slumber, the noise is meant to drive out evil spirits — the ones that the boughs from

Once, the winter wassail was widespread throughout the fruit-growing areas of southern and western England. Then, every farm pressed its own cider. The heady automnal draught often formed part of farm workers' wages. În Victorian times, a labourer consumed on average 130 gallons of cider in the

course of a year. in 1970, there remained 154,000 acres of orchards in he UK. But pressure for new houses and roads helped accelrate the decline. Orchards in illages and on the edge of towns became prime targets

were grubbed up as part of European Union attempts to reduce surpluses. By 1994, the acreage had fallen by more than half, Once there were 6,000 recorded varieties of apple, many unique to a single parish or farm. Now, only mine deminate in Britain Ave. mine dominate in Britain. Ancient cider baths were bull-dozed away; along with unimproved pasture that was rich in flowers, insects, birds and mammais. Consigned to

distant memory was a vest litany of apple fore.

The first, field to have magical qualities, was used in factoric selling and healing. Decorated apples were taken around houses as a sign of friendship and good health. The western warled only in the fine defail. In Susser, they when people were never quite partied it worshing 1 in Cornit survives in only a handful of

villages in Devon and Somer-ser. When we grubbed up our orchards, we lost much more than mere trees. Every farm and country house had its own orchard of mixed fruit trees for kitchen use," says Sue Clifford, founder and director of Common Ground, the Londonbased environmental charity.

"But we let it all fall through our fingers." Six years ago, the organis-ation launched a nationwide campaign to encourage the restoration of old orchards and to create new ones. A revived apple tradition was seen as vital. We thought if we could reinvent any of it, we could reinvent the orchard as well. We have been astonished at the way people have re-sponded," Ms Chifford says.

Common Ground has since seen more than 100 commun-

orchards established throughout the country, including the one that has been adopted in Stoke Gabriel. There, the wassail was reintroduced four years ago. Ms Turrell effectively grafted it on to the life of the village like the stem of some venerable Eng-lish pippin. "People have been coming in droves ever since,"

she says.
The balmy South Hams was famed for its cider. Exported to London, it fetched five shillings a barrel more than other. ressings from Devon.

Native apple varieties such as Slap Me Girl, Tang Harvey. Brown's of Staverton, Pig's Nose and Devonshire Quarrenden, survive ...: but

toke Gabriel's own litbearing trees, some 20 varieties in all. The village vicar has been known to sit and compose his sermon beneath the blossom, while here gorge themselves on the new pollen. Small children go there to count the weevils and bugs and to learn the apple-growing ways of their forebears. Loca scouts harvest the apples and sell them to a nearby commercial cider-maker. Bridal groups pose there. After funerals, it is the perfect quiet place. "it is a true community or-

chard," says Ms Turrell. "Every year we teach children the wassail song and the school chooses a wassail queen. This year, we have two because one of the little girls wanted to be with her friend. But first, we also teach the children the importance of caring for all orchards."

Last Saturday, Joanna Read

invites females,

Would you like to



Summoning up ancient forces, Leanne Gammin, left, reaches into the branches while Joanna Read, right, pours cider over the apple tree's roots

covered trees. Using longhandled forks, they thrust slices of cider-soaked toast among the branches.

Around the base of the trees, the girls took turns pouring jugfuls of cider to give fresh life to its roots. The wassail

song was then again bellowed to the skies: "For to bloom well and to bear well, so merry let

The guns blazed. The "old apple tree" had been toasted. woken and serenaded as though it were a real person. It is, in a way. "You lose one tree and you risk losing an entire

variety of apple," says Ms Turrell. On Stoke Gabriel's wassail night, Joanna and Leanne reclaimed and realfirmed something for others of their generation.

 Common Ground, Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA (0171-379 3109).

much more in evidence with

their loud 'teacher, teacher'

The tits are in a halfway

house at present. Though they

sing in their territories in the

morning, they go back and join up in foraging flocks later in the day. They are late nesters, and spring is still a

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- - CHANGING TIMES

Clear away the cobwebs from last year's nest

AFTER Christmas, one thing changes whatever the wea-her the days start to get nger. That is important to irds now. The lengthening nours of daylight trigger hanges inside them, and tovards the end of January nany start to prepare for

spring. The males look for territories with suitable nesting-places, and when they have found one they begin to defend it against other males.

Above all, they start to sing. Their song proclaims to other males, "This is my property for the coming season", and

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e winner of the New Year Jumbo Crossword, who receives a thuselah of Moet & Chandon champagne and £100, is Fisher of Ledbury. Herefordshire. The five runners-up, who th receive £100, are P. Barrett of London No. A Carr of athfield, East Sussex: N. Mepham of Harpenden, Hertford-re: E. Procter of Eastcote, Middlesex: P. Raikes of Oxford.

d join me?". in Holland in the last century, male chaffinches were sometimes kept in dark-

ness throughout the summer, and then given a little more light each day. Their bodies reacted as they would to lengthening daylight — and they began to sing in October. By then, large flocks of migrat-ing chaffinches were coming into Holland from northern Europe and the singing males were used to attract the females and trap them for use as food. It was a practical experiment that clearly showed the impact of increasing light on the males.

Near London I expect to start singing in early February hear my first chaffinch singing some time next week. Of course, the weather does also influence birds, and if it is cold and grey I may have to wait another week or so. But male chaffinches are getting busy. The older ones will try to occupy the territory they had last year, while birds raised last summer will try to squeeze themselves in somewhere.

They are all starting to examine apple trees for suitable forks for a nest, and to fly conspicuously round what they hope will be their boundaries. They call with a loud chink, chink and finally start singing. After that, their song - a string of rattling notes that grows faster and

FEATHER REPORT

flourish - will ring out from the end of a branch until Blackbirds are engaged in

much the same thing. The older birds often join up with the mate they had the previous year. Both male and female will have stayed around the territory during the winter, if provided enough food. though they will probably have roosted in separate bushes. Now the male starts roosting next to his old partner

and they start defending the territory together again. The blackbirds that will will mostly be young ones started courting on the lawn approaching a brown female with their head feathers lifted, their rump feathers raised in a hump, their tail spread and a wild look in their eye.

Blue tits are going in and out of boles in trees, often throwing out old debris. In this species the male may try to win a female by flying with a strange butterfly-like motion up to a nest-hole that he hopes vill tempt her.

The male blue uts are

long way off for them.

themselves. The

shiny black young

already singing early in the morning, but their brief song, like a pack of cards being is not particularly noticeable. The great tits are

DERWENT MAY • Wlast's about: Birders - Listen out for mistle thrushes starting to fronted goose at Holkham, Norfolk: American widgeon at Heysham, Lancashire: ferruginous duck at Frodsham Chethire Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute

cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

Male chaffinches will soon be house hunting and singing an invitation to mates

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Chill out in the deep freeze Alaska · 22

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Secrets of a long distance walker

Britain - 23





Stolen moments in bandit country

CORSICA

nche « Corte

Mont d'Oro

local paper had on its front

page a picture of five smug

huntsmen with a dozen or so

mangy looking boar carcasses at their feet. I was about to

deplore this barbaric practice

until told that, last season, half

a dozen of the beasts had to be

chased away from our swim-

But I cannot tell you what

boar tastes like; we all had

steak and chips. Delicious.

And while we ate and pon-

dered the matter of not miss-

ing the last train back, we

were serenaded by a guitar

and a superb voice, singing in

Corsican, which is no mere

dialect but a language in its

own right that is closer to

When planning excursions,

by all means add up the

distances shown on the

Michelin - then double them

before converting into time

allowed. Then add a bit more

anyway for the livestock haz-

Italian than French.

ming pool.

Balvedere di Saliccio

n hearing that I was off to Corsica; a friend urged me first to read the definitive book by Dorothy Carrington, whose title es-

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RENT!

TO MELA

200 ·

caped her. She meant Ms Carrington's Granite Island, but I mistakenly bought The Dream-Hunters of Corsica, and so arrived on the island reeling from the book's extraordinary tales of the mazzeri, the village women who traditionally had tourist souvenirs on proud

mystic powers to foretell or invoke death through dreams of hunting down their victims

in the magnis, the island's heady, hero-laden vegetation. This was pretty spooky stuff, and I am not easily spooked. Yet I found Corsica to be a truly strange Island, with a brooding air of thinly sup-pressed violence and menace This is the home of vengeance, and vendetta, of bandiny and resistance, whose favourite

Starting our spotlight on France, Sally Baker keeps her guard up on the beautiful island of Corsica

display in every shop are a indeed wind around the vast range of fierce-looking mountain, at walking speed, the pines brushing the winflick-knives to 18-inch serrated jobs, many of them with

ed figure holding an AK47 above the legend Liberté pour les patriotes. Shame on anyone who buys one.) The high inland town of Sartène is proud to be the home of the island's last official bandit, who emerged from hiding in the maquis in 1955 to do his penance. Strolling one lunchtime through its dark, silent streets overshadowed by tall, secretive, shuttered granite houses, every time I turned my head it was to glimpse a furtive shadow slipping into an alley entrance, or a door being

Vendetta lovingly inscribed

along the blade. (A sinister

extension of this craft seen in

closed by an unseen hand. Several of the houses had massive wooden doors with the island's bizarre symbol, the Tête de Maure (moor's head), carved into them. I was not inclined to linger.

t was a relief to find that Ajaccio, the island's capital on the west coast, is a pleasant, sunny, bustling port of shady squares and harbour-front cafes. The Saturday market is an intoxicating mix of herby, spicy smells, charcuterie and cheese stalls, fruit and veg. local honeys, liqueurs made from myrde and aperitifs made from red wine and herbs (try Cap Corse, one of the best).

Corsican music, both old and new, is enormously popular and beautiful; it is played in bars and cafés and tapes sold on market stalls

everywhere.
On the wall of the railway station in Ajaccio is a helpful notice in English extolling the delights of the train trip inland to Corte. It reads: "It is a must. The train winds around the mountain, crosses audacious bridges, grapples on the rock far from the road and the villages at the foot of the snow covered Monte d'Oro, and goes through the magnificent forest of Vizzavona planted with hariccio pines and

dows on either side until the ground fell dizzily away to allow us to wobble precariously across a succession of spidery bridges, each more one shop was a range of tawdry goods bearing a hood-

audacious than the last. Strategically sited high in the mountains at the island's geographical centre, Corte was the capital of the mid 18thcentury independent nation created by Pasquale Paoli. From here the great visionary ran his enlightened democratic state, finding time to found a university in 1764, until the French overran his forces in 1769, and moved their capital

to Ajaccio. Paoli's elegant old government building has a new life as the Centre for Corsican Studies, housing while we were there an extraordinarily chic avant-garde art installation which, while its deeper meaning was wasted on me. I instinctively felt would not have looked out of place at the

What was not wasted on me was lunch, sitting outside a flower-decked restaurant in a cobbled square, where the local delicacies on offer includ-ed blackbird terrine, wild boar, herb tartlets, trout stuffed with brocciu (the local goat's cheese), and for dessert findone — a sweet tart of lemon and brocciu.

The boar season opened just after we arrived, and the hills around our villa were alive with the sound of gunfire. The

ard: cows, goats, and the ever-present wild pigs. A delightful and not too demanding drive from the Ajaccio area is inland to Bastelica, 33km (about 2) miles) on the map, but see above. This gives plenty of hairpin practice, with the reward of Corsican cooking for hunch on the terrace of the pretty Hotel du Castagnettu.

Having got our mountain legs, or wheels, we struck north as far as the Gulf of Porto to see the bizarre red rock formations of Les Calanche.

This unique landscape is absolutely unmis-sable; and for surely one of the most beautiful views in Europe, in the village of Piana just south of the bay, turn west on a rough lane to the Saliccio Belvedere, and wind your way up the cliffs for a few kilometres until you come to the communications masts and the cross which mark the summit. Grab your camera, get out of the car. and hold on to your hat - it

blows up there. At the southern tip of Corsica, with Sardinia dearly visible across the water, lies another astonishing sight — the town of Bonifacio. The landscape as you drive south flattens out and becomes dry. rugged and wild. Even the maquis cannot get a root-hold on this rock.

Bonifacio's old buildings rise above the desert like a mirage, perched on a spur of blindingly white cliffs which have been so severely eroded beneath the town that the houses on the edges are effective; balancing on thin air. The narrow streets and tall houses of the old high town lead you out to a sailors' cemetery and fortress on the

spur's very tip.

Descend back through the town and steeply down to the harbour to take your pick of the long row of restaurants along the water's edge, from which vantage point you can watch the sleek yachts disgorge their cargoes of equally sleek people.

• The author was a guest of Voyages Ilena.

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CORSICA FACT FILE

■ Corsican Places (01424 774366) also offers holidays on the ■ Watersports are available almost everywhere: windsurfing,

sailing, scuba diving, parascending. ■ Restaurants range from pizzerias and creperies to temples to high gastronomy. For self-caterers, the supermarkets have fine baguetics, cheeses, parts, salad and fruit.
At Bonificio, try Pizza Grille des Amis, with main courses at about F25-40 (about £4); in Ajaccio try Restaurant Le Scampi,

with main courses at F175. ■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-729 5260) recommends
The Journal of a Tour to Corsica, by James Boswell (In Print,
£9.95, ISBN 1 870948 82.3), Granite Island, by Dorothy
Carrington (Penguin, £8.99, ISBN 0 14 009524 1), Corsica, by Theo
Taylor (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 88828 089 3).

part of substance in the college

France: Savouring the birthplace of Cakes and Ale, Peter Stothard finds even the zoo animals dine in style ...

مُكذا من الأصل

Reverie on Maugham's Cap Ferrat



Somerset Maugham at his retreat, Villa Mauresque

ou can tell a lot about its 200. On Cap Ferrat the crocodiles shine like living handbags; the rigers parade their thick Siberian coars on the warmest autumn day: the Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs (not stylish creatures even by standards less exacting than those of the Cote d'Azur) display their dull. black skins against a designergrey background of cinders.

On Cap Ferrat, the sometime playground of Belgian kings. French mistresses and haviriends of Somerset Maugham, the leopards sashay like starlets, and even the warthogs are fed on grissini. One moment you can be nipping at a breadstick in a hotel bar, staring across to Nice or Monte Carlo, and the next feeding the same delicate foodstuff, neatly packaged in Cellophane at five francs a portion. past the backward-pointing maks of African wild pigs.

This is not a place whose authorities worry too much where the next dollar is coming from. Dollars have been flowing here since its discovery by fashionable society in the Belle Epoque at the begin ning of the century - and they are still flowing into fine hotels. fabled restaurants, formidably priced properties and even into this friendliest of zoos. Just watch a fennec fox tuck into 51b of fresh steak; see the pleasure in his huge eyes and ears and wonder how many even of the French human population are eating so well.

Somerset Maugham's guests in the 1930s had little to worry about on that score. The worst that could happen was that their host would serve them his notoriously tasteless avocado ice-cream. His magnificent house, the Villa Mauresque, with exotic fruit trees and terraces of roses, stands at the furthest point of the Cap as a reminder of the days when a small section of literary England, escaping from cold, rain and homosexuality laws, gathered for good food and lavish entertainment on their Riviera.

The villa no longer contains its unique window painted by Gauguin or its bathmats by Matisse, But its Moorish talisman against the evil eye, the symbol repeated on the collect-

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Villa owners on Cap Ferrat have always had to keep up with such notorious big spenders as Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, whose pink palace is full of Fragonard and Sevres

ed edition of its owner's vast and hicrative oeuvre, still stares at unwelcome visitors from the entrance. Maugham liked to write

about the people and places around his French retreat. Two of the best examples are The Facts of Life, a short story set against the casino of Monte Carlo, and The Three Fat

Women of Antibes, a bravura portrayal of bitchery, bridge and slimming. But the author also came to Cap Ferrat, like many other tourists since, to relax and think about the life he had left behind. It was here that he wrote Cakes and Ale, creating his finest heroine around the character of the first Mrs Thomas Hardy, and cocking a faraway snook at the Herary Longon of the 1920 whose idiocies both amused him and had made him rich.

Money meant a great deal to Maugham. Villa owners on Cap Ferrat have always had to keep up with such notorious spenders as Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, whose pink palace, full of Fragonard and Sevres, remains there for tourists like a small Wallace Collection in the sun. Maugham had to fund his extravagances from his own pockets; at his own more modest palace he used to harass his publishers with as

much vigour as that for which his modern successors are so often mocked.

In Cakes and Ale there is a special word of admiration for the literary lioniser Mrs Sidney Colvin, who helps a favourite poet out of obscurity. "She dealt with the publishers and made contracts for him that would have staggered even a Cabinet minister; she even went so far as to separate him from his wife, with whom he had lived happily for ten years, since she felt that a poet, to be true to himself and his art, must not be encumbered gham's marriage, to the daughter of the original Dr Barnardo, was little part of his

The great old man of letters is more prominently remem-bered now not at his home (which has given its name to the local bus stop) but a few hundred yards away towards the sea at the piano-bar of the Grand-Hotel du Cap Ferrat. Even in an off-season weekend in October, when the sun

cannot be guaranteed to reflect on to the Cap from the white diffsides, this hotel is one of those rare places which works like the amouthest engine.

stretching down its gardens to an overflowing salt-water pool, its precise staff and maculate pale cream and avocado decoration, it is a more than fitting memorial.

Maugham's novels and stories is the ever-increasing demands placed by guests on hotels. Today's Grand Hotel would have no difficulty with the most demanding visitor from the past.

The same cannot be said for its similarly priced inland companion, the Château de la Chèvre d'Or, in the popular cliffside village of Eze. Out of season here meant out of service, and a long wait even to restore heat to a chilly room.

Although the views of where we had been on Cap Ferrat were speciacular, we were left envying the thick coats of the grissini-enting tigers.

CAP FERRAT

Rooms at the Grand-Hotel du Cap Ferrat (00 334 93 76 50 50) start from Fr750 (about E84) a night; the Suite Royale cost from Fr4,300 a night. A dinner stant polision would cost about Pr420 (drinks not included)...

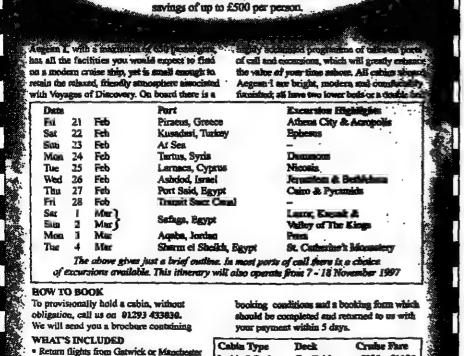
■ The Chitean de la Chèvre d'Or (00 334 92 10 66 66), in the village of Ese, charges Fri,000 a night for a single room in low season: Fr2,400 a night for a junior suite (prices of main suites

don NW3 5BG (0171-431 1312, faz 441 4221) can arrange tallormade holidays throughout France, including three night breaks at the Grand-Hotel from £459 per person, and at the Chèvre d'Or from £516, with bed and breakfast, scheduled flights to Nice and self-drive car hire. The Chèvre d'Or is also 834400. fax 831133).

III Le Zoo de Cap Ferrat (00 334 93 76 04 98). Villa et Jardins-Ephrussi de Rothschild (00 334 93 01 33 09); open daily 2-spm, weekende and holidate. Demokren ds and holidays loam-opm.

The French Tourist Board, 0891 244123 (calls are charged at 390 a minute cheap rate, 49p at all other times); Nice Tourist Office, 00 334 93 87 07 07.

Reading: Tender is the Night, by F Scott Fitzgerald (Penguin, ES.99, ISBN 0 140 18075-3), Collected Short Stories Vol. 2. by W Somerset Manghum (Mandarin, ET.99, ISBN 0 749-30345-X), France Cate of Azur, by Dana Pacaros and Michael Pauls (Cadogan, 112.99, ISBN 1860 110614).



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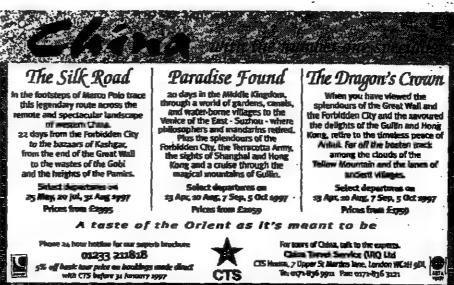
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... while a desire to relive his childhood led James MacManus to the coast of Brittany for an outdoor holiday



Camping with no strings

hood holidays draw many parents back to old with their own

In pursuit of holidays past we have revisited the shingle beaches of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness in Suffolk, the now greying sands of West Wittering in Sussex and the surfy strand at Trebarwith on the north Cornish coast.

All this bucket-and-spading delighted our children and refurnished my memories of crabbing in Cornish rockpools and competing in the August. regatta on Thorpeness mere.

But the charm of such nostalgia holidays, and the climate that goes with them, has always eluded my South African-born wife. So last year we took the decision to go camping some-

where warm on the risky basis that she had once had a jolly. good time sleeping in a tent and cooking over an open fire After brisk negotiation,

Transvaal went out of the window, followed by the tents. We settled instead for a mobile home on a camp-site in With much foreboding on my part and some comment.

adventure on hers we drove off the ferry at St Malo on a July morning to find ourselves Atlantique, a camp-site on the



Canvas Holidays. (0645 747222) offers starting prices of £573 for a family of two adults and four children staying at one of 74 sites in Europe in nights including ferry.

Other companies offering camping holidays in Britain and Europe are Eurocamp (054) 555055, Eurosites (01706 830739) Patricia Fenn. (Quiller, £6.95, ISBN 1899 16303-4). Caravanning in France 1997 (Michelia, 1849, ISBN 2 060 06179.2):

south Britishy coast just a few miles rirom the medieval walled city of Concarneau. . We had chosen the site from

scores listed by Canvas Holi-days with three objectives. With three children squashed in the back of an old Saab we did not want a long drive from the ferry. We also wanted a camp that was walking distance from a good beach and which offered supervised ac-tivities for children; and we wanted to be within easy reach

Score two out of three for Fouesnant, We never did get to test the system whereby a bronzed Scottish lass,



and Carisms Holidays (01923 284560).

Reading French Entrée — Britians, by

swooped down on children aged four to 13 and took them off for organised activities for up to four hours at a time, six

Our two youngest came down with chickenpox on day one so we were forced to turn our backs on what looked like a guilt-free method of getting rid of the little darlings for hours at a time.

Our spotty brood meant that we were unable to mingle with our largely Dutch. German around the pool, so instead we set forth from our mobile and headed for the beaches. Every other parent, we not-

ed, packed their children off with the couriers and then sat down to an extended al fresco breaklast,

Ten minutes walk through a pine wood led to miles of clean sand that stretched either way to little fishing harbours at Beg Meil and Mousicrlin. The water was cold, but the sun was hot and every now and then young men on balloon wheeled bicycles pedalled past selling ice-cream.

Ten minutes further afield smothered rock-pools hiding giant crabs, and a decent twostar family run hotel, La Pointe de Mousterlin, to fall

Amanda MacManus and daughter Elizabeth relax by the mobile home in Fouesnant into for lunch. Children's

> Fixed menus started from £12 per head. Compared to the South of France the prices are cheap and the Bretons And so we lazed on the

menus were about to per head

for fish or chicken and chips

almost everywhere we went.

beach every morning and lunched on unseemly quantities of mussels, langoustines and baked clams, followed by endless variations of pancakes the Brewn diet. The glorified caravan which was home for two weeks welcomed us back rows of tents which paraded

after a stab at sightseeing in the afternoon. Although just 28ft by 10ft it took the sting, or the magic if you prefer, out of

The beaches of Brittany in northwest France are uncrowded and clean with abundant rock pools hiding lush sea life. Small harbour towns provide excellent restaurants

With five berths in two bedrooms, a small sitting room/diner and a gas cooker. fridge, mains electricity and lavatories and showers that worked, it provided a comfortable base for the five of us.

The weather allowed us to barbecue out most evenings and there were babysiners whenever we decided, usually disastrously, to try a Michelin recommended restaurant in

The camp was run with Teutonic efficiency which seemed at odds with the wild and windswept character of the Celtic rim of France -- but it worked. Fresh bread and milk appeared in the camp shop every morning and the launderene and shower blocks hummed with activity from an

Everyone obeyed the rules - no ball games within the camp, no noise after 11pm, a speed limit of 10mph in the camp and no cars allowed back through the main gate after IIpm (late returners have to park outside the gates and

It was slightly like being back at school but, in their

down hedge-lined avenues, the campers seemed to relish the discipline.

We in our superior mobile homes, shaded by trees and discreetly positioned for some privacy, secretly yearned for a slice of the real camping life. even if only to sit round a fire at night swapping yarns about taut canvas, tight guy ropes and sharp tent pegs with fellow devotees of the great ouidoors.

But there were no camp fires to sit around. Everyone piled into the camp har at night, drank prodigious quantities of the local cider, and staggered back to their tents unid much giggling.

As far as we were concerned they need not have bothered. Long before lights out we were sleeping the sleep of those who know that their children will be up with, or usually well before, the dawn. And for their sake we will probably go camping again because for them a French camp-site beats a British beach every time. James MacManus travelled as

WORD

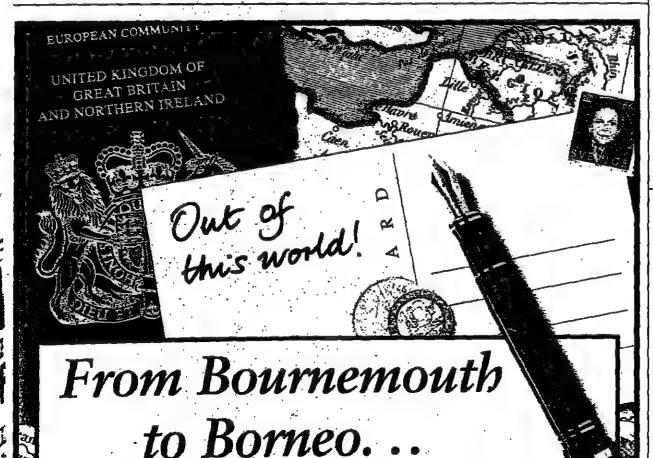
WATCH Answers from page 27 LETHIFEROUS

(b) That causes or results in death, deadly, From the Latin let(h)um death -ferous bringing. MONITION

(b) Instruction or direction. Warning, admonitory counsel. LASCARINE

(a) An old East Indian soldier under the British Raj; also one of the native police. An adaptation of the Portuguese lasquarin, Urdu lashkari military LUBISH

(a) A Lubish mark or shilling was a denomina-tion belonging to a money of account formerly in extensive mercantile use in North Germany. A toponym from Lubeck, a town of northern Germany.



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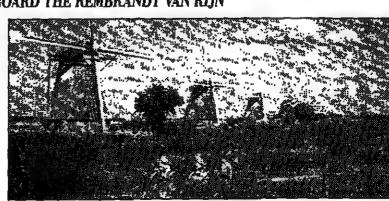
This coming April immerse yourself in the cultural and horticultural splendours of the Netherlands. Join the first class 90 passenger 'Rembrandt van Rijn' in Amsterdam and enjoy seven days abourd which will include two days in Amsterdam and five days cruising the Dutch Waterways.

Our three departures will take place in April affording us the opportunity to enjoy the colourful spectacle of the bulblields as their blooms carpet the countryside in every imaginable hue. We will explore some of Antsterdam's

cultural delights including the works of the great masters. Rembrandt and Vermeer in the fabulous Rijksmuseum, a diamond cutting workshop, and a ranal cruise through the heart of the city. In the picture que country side we will visit the charming villages of Edam and Marken. join a walking tour of Hoorn, visit the anuzing 70 acre gardens of Keukenhof and the World War II battlefield and Airborne Museum at Arnhem.



All this is achieved from the comfort of Rembrandt van Rijn, which will be our base for the seven nights, thus avoiding tedious road journeys and a succession of hotels. This Dutch owned and operated vessel offerspacious and comfortable outside cabins with large picture windows. The main lounge and bar are well furnished and welcoming and the one-sitting dining room provides delicious Continental cuisine. The sun deck has comfortable lounge chairs and is an ideal place for observation. Our three voyage are for English speaking puseingers only.



THE ITINERARY

DAY I London (Heathrow)-Amsterdam with KLAL Drive to the Rembraudt van Rijn which is moored in a central location and embark. Afternoon at leibure. Velcome dinner. BAY 2 Amsterdam Morning visit to the

Rijk-my-rum and a diamond cutting lartory. Afternoon at Icisuro

DAY 3 Amsterdam Morning canal cruise by motorlaunch, Afternoon free.

DAY 4 Zuider Zee Sail from Amsterdam in the early hours making our way across the Zuider Zee to Volendam, from here we will visit Edam and Marken fantous for their cheese. Narrow canals wooden bridges, the historic Wrigh House and the museum with a flusting cellar make for a most enjoyable morning's visit. During lunch sail to Hourn where we will join an organised walk through this enchanting town. In the late afternoon sail to hampen, arriving in time for an ofter dinner stroll along its historic lanes.

DAY 5 Arubem Morning sailing through the lorested countryside to Arnhem. After functi we will yasit the World War II hattle site and the Airborne Museum which houses models of the battlefield and provides a commentary. Later explore Arnhem. the market place and I5th century Grote Kerk. DAY 6 Dordrecht and Botterdam Sail across-Holland past gently rolling country-ide which is dested with windmills. Arrive in Dordrecht after

seed after breakfast for a full day visit to the

marvellous bulb gardens of Kenkenhof at Liese

lunch and explore this historic town before spiling on to Rotterdam for an overnight mooring. DAY 7 Keukenhof Gardens and Delft Leave the

and some free time in this lovely town. Drive on to Evening free in Amsterdam. DAY 8 Amsterdam - London (Heathrow) Describerk after breakfast and drive to Schiphol airport for your return flight with Kl. M.

> DEPARTURE DATES 12,19,26 April 1997

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France: Nagged by his horse-loving 12-year-old daughter, Paul Heiney rides again - after a gap of 15 years...

مكذا من الأصل

Saddle sore but happy on the trails of the Tarn

ies which growing daughters present Rose Heiney writes: there is none more perplexing than the relationship between a 12-year-old and ponies. I reassure myself that there are more dangerous liaisons in which a pre-teenage girl could be indulging. But tolerance was not enough. A "riding holiday" was demanded.

I have heard bad reports of these holidays; all bunk beds and baked beans and nothing to read but a tattered Horse and Hound or Bunty. Anyway. I do not like riding.

But fathers have duties and so daughter Rose and I lugged our helmets, breeches, boots and saddle-sore ointment to the rolling hills of the Tarn. an hour by train from Toulouse.

Half close your eyes in the Tarn and you could be in Derbyshire. Ravines and gorges are scoured by fastflowing rivers: the steep hillsides are thick with pine and broad-leafed trees, and the tops of the hills are flat

Les Juliannes at Paulinet. our destination, lies 1,200ft above sea level, with a view all the way to the Pyrenees, I was not looking that far. My eyes

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Well I never thought I'd see climb upon a horse, kick it into a canter, and jump while I stood watching, hands over eyes. Anyway, we both had some incredible rides. I actually found the rides more daunting than my father, not having much of a head for heights, Astonishing really. what you'll do under the instruction of someone who doesn't speak your language.

crossed the threshold. It is the

French farmhouse of your

dreams, and within an hour of

arriving it was hard to believe

we were not personal and

lifelong friends of our hosts,

I sported vast jugs of red wine on the farmhouse table,

and thought I might decline

the riding. You do not have to

ride here: you can eat, drink and swim in the pool.

Daughter had other ideas.

On the first day, I found

myself booked in for a morn-

ing lesson and a two-hour ride

in the afternoon. I presented

myself at the stables in a pair

of breeches cut for a finer

figure than mine and was

introduced to my horse; an

upstanding chestnut gelding

Marc and Claudine.



were on the fit and polished horses, the large stable and indoor school, set well away from the farmhouse, and on the house itself. No bunkhouse here: it is an adorable 17th-PAULINET century farmhouse with walls 2ft thick to deflect summer There are only six bedrooms and, I am happy to report, no evidence of any sweaty horseblanket ever having

called Pataras. "Tres antique, said Guy, the instructor, trying to reassure me.

In the huge indoor school, with five others of mixed ability, age and nerve, I surprisingly recaptured my rising trot of 15 years ago (I never got beyond that stage). It felt rather pleasant; made more so by the charming firmness of Guy, whose command of English was as slight as my understanding of equine French. Beware: the French have no word for "canter". They have degrees of gallop.

This can be confusing.

After lunch we set off for the two-hour afternoon promenade. You need some head for heights, because the hills are steep and you spend some time sitting back in your saddle with your horse's head so low that you can no longer

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see it. But give the horses plenty of rein and they find footholds. Then you relax when you meet the lush meadows on the valley floors, let your horse drink at the fastflowing streams, soak up the fragrance of the forests and the hot animal beneath you.

it hurt on the first day, but by day three I had a rump like the Lone Ranger's. I needed it. Ninety minutes into that first cross-country ride Guy shouted, "OK. Gallocoop". Not having the French to say politely, "No thank you, rising trot will be fine," I had no choice. "Get into zer jumping position," he said, demonstrating a pose like a jockey at Becher's Brook.

now, the word "gallocop" had sunk into the brains of the horses and antique Pataras was gathering speed. There was no ejector seat, no parachute. So I galloped. Backside out of the saddle, standing in the stirrups, reins shortened, head low.

The pace quickened, the forest air whistling past till we emerged at the top of the hill and slowed to a walk. Fantastic! The whole ride punched the air and cried out with joy. After three hours in the

saddle, I staggered back to the farmhouse and discovered to my delight that to get to our room you walk past the kitchen window. Peering through the shutters I could see Marc toying with his mustards, oils vinaigrettes, and wine. This was better than embrocation. We fed late and superbly every night on the robust

neck beyond description), and swilled red wine like horses at a trough. Claudine, smiling like the Mona Lisa, joined us with the chocolate pudding.

After that, the days got better. To my astonishment as much as Rose's, under the firm direction of Guy I did a little jumping, and liked it. There were three "galloocops" every day, each more thrilling than the preceding one.

One lady took a tumble (a rare occurrence here), whereon the youthful Guy swung down from his horse, broke a twig from the hedge for a splint, and ripped his shirt from his taut body to improvise a sling. Then, bare chested, he flung himself into the saddle and galloped at full speed for help. Beat that for

Even now I miss my daily gailop through the forests, pausing to pick blackberries then trotting through the small farmyards where chickens roost in old 2CVs.

I shall go on a horse-riding holiday again. I might even let the daughter come, too. Paul and Rose Heiney were

FACT FILE

Hovingham, York Y06 4JZ (01653 62886Z). Les March to late October and is suitable for riders of all ages and abilities Prices start from E445 for seven nights with self-drive (or from £595 by air to transfer) and includes half board, ten hours' instruction or five half-day VFB France Active

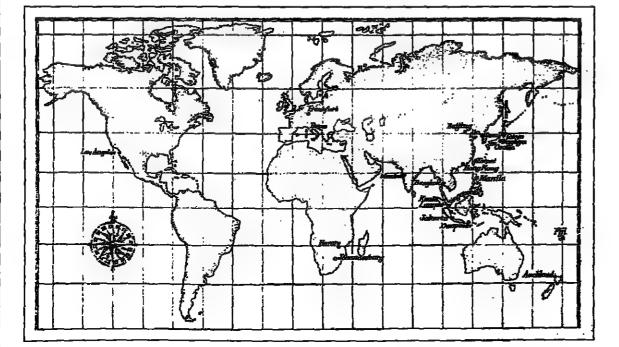
(01242 240310) includes horse riding as part of its multiactivity bolidays in the French Alps. Reading: Travels with a Donkey in the Cavennes, by R.L. Stevenson (OUP, E4.99, ISBN 0 192 82629 8). Michelin Gorges du Tarn (In French only) (ES 99, ISBN 2060 33703 8).

River, Lake Ladoga,



The Tarn region in southern France, with its picturesque scenery, is its

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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Russian Waterways of the heopening of the waterways between St Petersburg and Moscowallowsusto link a visit to two great cities with a relaxing cruise that travels the Neva

the Svir River, Lake Onega, the Baltic Canal, White Lake, the Volga River and finally the Moscow and Volga Canal. This intricate system of waterways has a beauty that is hard to describe. Serene, peaceful and timeless with silver birch and pine forests, sandy

the riverside church make a stunning landmark. For many the visit to Kizhi Island in Lake Onega will be the highlight of the waterway journey. Here the magnificent Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 shimmering grey domes in three tiers are more than a match for the fairytale splendour of Mos-cow's St Basil's. From here we cruise through the fascinating waterway system through Goritsy to the cities of the Golden Ring, stopping at Yaroslavi and Uglich on the mighty Volga. These magi-cal cities of Holy Russia still preserve their medieval kremlins, fortified monasteries

shores, calm flowing water and spectacular late sunsets, in these

realms of the 'White Nights'. Calls

will be at such historic towns as

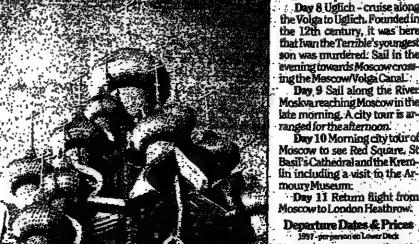
Uglich, where the blue cupolas decorated with the golden stars of

and churches, in surroundings remote from the modern world. For this journey we are operating with the MS Karamzin which was used for the first time last year and received high praise from a large number of passengers. The tour represents extremely good value for money and will therefore

appeal to those wishing to see unspoilt parts of Russia from an economical and

The MS Karamzin This comfortable, well-maintained shipwas built in Germany and recently partially renovated. All cabins are outside with large picture window (except those on the Lower Deck that have two portholes), private shower, toilet and temperature control; the ship is fully air-conditioned. The bright, pleasant restaurant has windows on three sides offering views as you dine. Cuisine (Russian and Continental) is adjusted to western taste. There is a main lounge/bar with live music several more lounges, beauty shop and ampledeckspace. Laundryservice is avail-

able and a medical doctor is on board. Because the ship is now under Western management, you can expect many upgradedamenities (including quality tow-, soap, toilet paper, coffee) and better food, service, cruise director and staff.



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Museum Afternoon visit to Pushkin, the blue and gold rococo palace designed for the Empress Elizabeth. Sail in the evening. Day 4 Svir Stroy - the day is spent leisurely cruising Lake Ladoga and the Svir River stop-

ping at the village of Svir Stroy. Day 5 Kizhi Island - sail across Lake Onega to Kizhi and see the typical wooden churches, houses with early barns and windmill. A visit will be made to the Transfiguration Church.

Day 6 Goritsy-sail along the Baltic Canal

and across White Lake to the town of Goritsy

6th-centuryarchitecture

Day 8 Uglich - cruise along the Volga to Uglich. Founded in the 12th century, it was here that Ivan the Terrible's youngest son was murdered. Sail in the evening towards Moscow crossing the Mescow/Volga Canal Day 9 Sail along the River

Moskva reaching Moscowin the late morning. A city tour is arranged for the afternoon. Day 10 Morning city tolir of Moscow to see Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Krem-

moury Museum: Day 11 Return flight from Moscow to London Heathrow. Departure Dates & Prices

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and Brian Jackman walks the smugglers' tracks of the Cerdagne, a lost valley deep in the Pyrenees

Turn right at Dead Man's Fountain

If the way from Per-pignan the peaches hung red and ripe in roadside orchards. Higher, beyond the medieval walls of Villefranche de Conflent in the foothills of the Pyrenees, the Spanish chestnuts were in flower. Despite a late snowfall at the end: of May, summer had come

with scorching temperatures. From Villefranche the road ran on towards Spain, following the narrow-gauge tracks of Le Petit Train Jaune, France's highest railway line, into the heart of the Cerdagne, a lost valley hidden deep in the Catalan Pyrenees.

The Cerdagne is classic frontier country, a mixture of colliding cultures with a corious, dislocated history. Long ago the medieval Kings of Mallorca ruled here. Until the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659. this region still belonged to Catalonia: but then the power of Spain receded, leaving the Cerdagne washed up permanently on the French side of the border. Yet even today Llivia, once the capital of the Cerdagne, remains as a Spanish enclave margoned inside France, where people say "Hola" instead of "Bonjour"; and the villages of the Cerdagne with their curious, truncated names - Hix, Ur, Err and Lio—are still strongly Catalan in character

I was heading for Valceboliere (population 35), tucked away in a remote valley near the town of Saillagouse within walking distance of the Spanish fromier. It is the kind of village where you wake in the mornings to the sound of cows being driven through the streets; a huddle of stone houses, all roofed in authentic. Pyrenean fashion with fishiail. slates, set beside a rushing

At its centre is the Auberge Les Ecureuils, a welcoming mountain inn whose patron, Etienne Laffitte, first came to Valcebollere at the age of Il to holiday at his uncle's house. He fell in love with the region



Today les contrebandiers are gone from the rugged Pyrenees and walkers now follow their old, clandestine trails, returning to a hot bath or sauna and a four-course dinner

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es it is unique. Add a vibrant capital - Reykjard

with its fabulous rightlife, fascinating cultural bertage and festionable traditional crafts and you'll wonder why you never came before.

hard to do - and came back to transform the village inn into a delightful retreat for mountain walkers.

My unde was a famous smuggler," he said. "He was always taking cigarettes, ny-lons and other little luxuries into Spain. During the Second

CERDAGNE FALT FLE

II luntravel, Hovingham, York Y06 4JZ (01653 628862) in its Inn-Active

summer brochure features independent walking holidays in the Certagne, including the Eyne Valley and the Auberge les Ecurells in

Valcebollere. Walk options range from six to be days. Luggage is transported between hootis, and accommodation is half-board, with picnics provided on every walking day. Seven nights, with flights from Gatwick to Perpignan and private transfer, cost from 1998. Or you can

use the Auberge les Ecureils in Valcebollere as a base, where self-drive prices for a three-night stay start at £170. Intributed in land of the self-drive prices for a three-night stay start at £170. isse the America is received in America at America and a prices for a three-night stay start at £179. Instravel also offers an accompanied in the Footsteps of the Smugglers walk in August and

■ Naturetrek (01962 733051) also offers botanical walking trips in the

■ Reading: Song of Roland (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 44532 3).

Walks and Climbs in the Pyreness, by Kev Reyrolds (Cicerone, £14.99, ISBN 1 852 84133 8). Michelin Guides Pyrenées Roussillon (ISBN 2 060 36804 9) and Pyrenées Aquitaine (ISBN 2 060 36704 2). In French, £8.99 each. Pyrenées, by Marc Dubin (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 858 28093 4).

September (seven nights from £765).

across the Pyrenees into Spain. He just asked if they would help carry some extra contraband for him." Today, les contrebandiers are gone and walkers follow their old clandestine trails,

bath or sauna, followed by a splendid four-course dinner cooked by le patron himself. of fresh apricot juice, hot croissants and cof-

fee, I set off up the steep path into the mountains behind the auberge. The summer meadows were bright with wild flowers: orchids trefoils, scented pinks, skyblue campanulas and yellow gentians with leaves like asses ears. But what most caught the eye were the butterflies, rising and falling among the

Some were familiar: orange tips, painted ladies, clouded yellows. Others - continental varieties of blues, coppers and fritillaries - I knew only from illustrations in field guides. Black-veined whites, a species not seen in Britain since the 19th century, were common here, flying in the company of another butterfly I had never seen before - the Parnassius apollo — its large, paperywhite wings exquisitely marked with black, grey and faded blood-red spots.

. Higher up the track, where the pines and alpen roses ended, open hillsides of closecropped grass rose steeply

World War he also helped to towards the skyline. It was too guide escaped British PoWs late in the year to see the pasquellowers in bloom. Their feathery grey husks were everywhere, nodding in the breeze. But the sun-baked slopes were still covered with pincushion clumps of pinks and mountain saxifrages. With my binoculars I spotted returning at the end of an arduous hike to enjoy a hot five izards - Pyrenean chamois - grazing on a distant

> The summits of these Catalonian mountains are rounded Highlands, with patches of tired-looking snow still lying in their green hollows. But everything is on a much grander scale. Puigmal, the highest peak in the Cerdagne,

is not far off 3,000 metres. ing for the sunlit valleys far below. Maybe Etienne La-Puigmal, the Evil Mountain. is notorious for its sudden. fitte's uncle had once used this route, sneaking through the treacherous mood swings: sunshine one moment, storms night with his tobacco and his the next. Today its dark silhou-I retraced my steps until I ette stood out sharp and clear against the sky, keeping watch over one of Europe's loneliest

At last I reached the long. rolling crest to the west of Puigmal. A path runs along it. marked by caims. I stood on the frontier and saw the moundistance, marching south into the heat haze towards Barcelona. Farther on 1 came to an old mule track snaking steeply down past a spring known as Dead Man's Fountain, headhalf a crusty loaf and a goatskin hota of sharp red

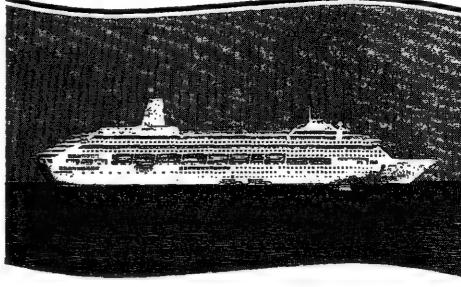
Afterwards, lying back in the grass, watching the cloud shadows sailing over the mountainsides. I noticed three black specks in the sky. They were griffon vultures - giant birds with a 2m wingspan patrolling the mountains in search of carrion.

Eagles also frequent this high country, and lower down in the fathomless forests, among the alpen rose glades and old-growth pines, the lynx still lingers like a legend, along with wild boar, pine martens, capercaillie and the hibou grand due or eagle owl. with its gruff voice and glaring orange eyes.

ater during my stay, at Mr Lafitte's insistence, I drove to the nearby village of Eyne in order to walk up the Eyne Valley, a nature reserve renowned for its wild flowers. The walk began in a summer meadow loud with grasshoppers. At the edge of the path a butcher-bird swung on a dog-rose stem. As I followed the tumbling mountain torrent upstream through fragrant pinewoods, the sides of the valley drew closer, with dizzy crags and pinnacles tearing at

Here, as in the high meadows above Valcebollere, there were butterflies galore: marbled whites. Scotch argus and Queen of Spain fritillaries with quicksilver underwings. But in the Eyne Valley it is the flowers that take pride of place: wild mauve geraniums. orchids and globe flowers. drifts of blue and yellow gentians, bistort and hay rattle, creamy swags of meadowsweet, with here and there the magnificent martagon or Turk's-cap lily, the pride of the

It is one of the loveliest summer walks in Europe. Brian Jackman was a guest of



was out of the wind and found

a sheltered grassy hollow in

which to enjoy the magnificent

picnic which Mr Latitte had

provided: omelette aux cham-

pignons, pâté, air-dried ham,

tomatoes, cheese, cherries,

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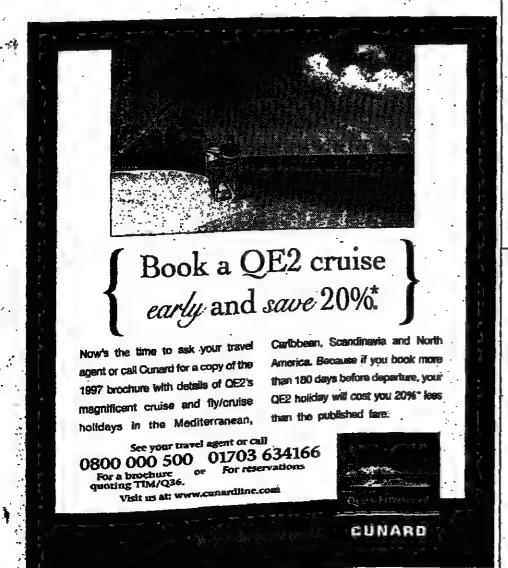
The cruise itself is a 5-day break that takes in La Coruna in Northern Spain and the historic French ports of La Pallice and Brest.

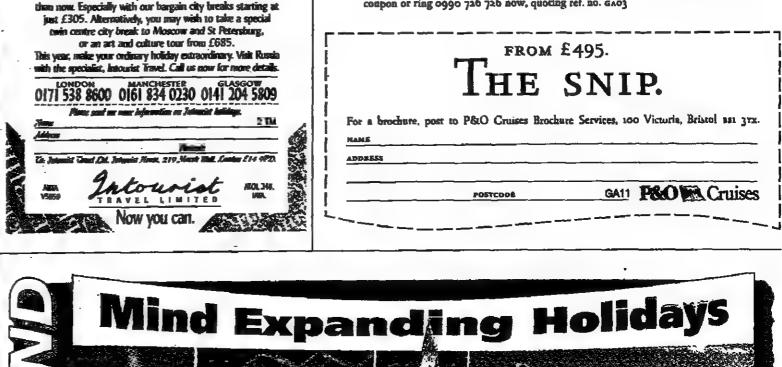
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Alaska: When it's 15C under, the bears are fast asleep but the 'strip-tease' and snowmobiling carry on

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Chill out in the deep-freeze

doorsy, frontiersy kind of place where are the women. With wraparound snow vistas and days cut to six hours in mid-winter, at times it can feel as if you are inside a deep-freeze. But to visit in summer would be to wimp out: winter is when the pristine wilderness is at its most dramatic and uncompromising, when the mountains possess a peeriess clarity; and are often half-price.

Alaskans south of the Arctic Circle, enjoying a balmy minus 15C in the winter, go out mushing over iced rivers, spinning light aircraft over hanging glaciers, snowmobiling, climbing frozen waterfalls and fishing through iceholes. The Alaskan philosophy is wrap up warm, get out and enjoy. And, if the weather turns really nasty. Alaskans are good at getting drunk.

I hit town on December 3 after to hours in the air. It was midnight in Anchorage and I was on 9am; day was night for me and pretty much for them. too, with darkness falling around 3.40pm and laying in rill ten the next morning.

My 17th-floor hotel room looked over a low-slung, gridded city. Streets were conpacted snow and more of the white stuff was still falling. The next morning, three minutes from my hotel, I stood looking south over the frozen mudrocks of the Cook Inlet to humpbacked Mount Susitna. Wind gnawed at any exposed flesh and snow swirled off rooftops. Hungry ravens

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along the ten-mile coastal trail. Unlike other cities, instead of suburbs to keep it warm Anchorage is surrounded hy wilderness - half an hour on a snowmobile north and I would be in serious bear and wolf country among the white-knuckled peaks of the Chugach Mountains.

And town itself was a differ-

ent species to the generic ar home. Walking up 9th Avenue I passed a moose caught up in the Christmas lights on a spruce tree. In someone's back yard I saw a reindeer kept as a pet and taken for daily walks along 10th Avenue. Instead of civic notables, the only bronze statue in town was of a husky signalling the starting line of "the world's last great race" --

the 1.000-mile iditarod. At the Oomingmak Shop I admired shawls and mittens woven by Eskimos from the underhair of the primeval musk oxen; at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Musquawked their raucous disputations above office workers langlaufing their way to work

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a belt made of caribou teeth and mukluks (boots) made from transparent fish skins. At night I trawled the bars

and found each, like the restaurants, dressed with stuffed moose and grizzlies as well as the carcasses of 300lb halibuts and 50lb salmon. As I sat in one bar, a hat rack belonging to a moose passed by the window. At Fly by Night, a 1980s Miss Alaska by the name of Alice Wellings went through a surreal put-on rather than strip-off routine, ending up fully clothed in hip waders and a halibut wool coat as the crowd bayed, "Put 'em on, put 'em on".

Those inhabiting what they call the Bush disparagingly say Anchorage is only 30 minutes from the real Alaska, so the next morning I left half of the state's miserly 570,000 population behind me and headed out of town on Northern Lights Avenue which fed into Seward Highway. On my right, the second highest tide in the world was on its way out seeking a route through frozen mud and ice. In the summer beluga and orca whales bask here. Snow swirled like smoke

hen as I rounded a bend, I saw an overturned car in a pillow some exhausted husky. A door snow up to my knees, I helped the driver get his two young daughters and wife out. When l asked if they were all right. the husband laconically replied, "Sure, buddy, snow's good for flipping over in."

Girdwood, the resort of Alyeska had grown up hopeful that skiing would be the new sold mine. A-frame cabins wore 2ft snow moustaches and dagger icicles dangled from overhangs. On the breakfast menu at the Alyeska Bake Shop I found cinnamon rolls instead of reindeer sausage. This was a resort more for alternative types than frontier

regularly to figure in the top emlore the wilderness. itation while their husbands four for snow coverage work as masseuses when they It allegedly has the best view of any US ski area: from the are not answering air moun-

Glacier Terminal there is a panoramic sweep across the Chugach Mountains, Turnagain Arm and seven hanging glaciers. You skip altitude tiredness here, it is usually warmer than at Jackson Hole, and by mid-February it has the longest days of any Ameri-Apart from regular downhill, telemark and cross-coun-

try skiing. Alyeska boasted other activities from skijoring (getting pulled on skis by dogs to mushing and snowmobiling. So, having swooped down wonderfully unpopulated snow shoes and set off to

The bears, I had been emphatically told, were hibernating. But, being a sceptic by nature, I nervously fingered the just-in-case pepper spray I had in my pocket each time another slab of snow crashed from a tree, rending the cathedral silence. My worst fear was that I might wake one of the black bears fond of the Cajun spicy diet provided by "dumper" outside the Dooble Musky restaurant, rendering my spray more of an

Two hours' drive away in the Matanuska-Susitna region I explored the silent, ethereal Hatcher Pass on a snow

cier, a minianare Siberia 26 miles long and three miles across whose massive crevasses looked like a wolfs claw

marks from the Long Rifle The people I met on my Alaskan odyssey were as

M Double rooms at Anchorage's Hotel Captain Cook (907 276 6000) cost from £69; at Ynixm Dom's 1907 376 7472), one of Alaska's best inns, in the Mat-Su Valley near Wasille 539-563 (with breakfast); at the five-star Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel from 190 rooms sleep up to four (bookable in UK on 0171-408 0636); Black John's Cabin (with kitchen and two double beds) can be booked through Three Rivers
Accommodations (tel/fax 907 733 2741) for £44. El Crystal (0181-399 5144) has one week at Westin Alyeska Prince plus llight and transfers from 1579.

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£45, full day with camplire lunch £145 per person. Book III Two and a half bour Kenai Fiords winter cruise with Renown Charters (907 272 1961), £35 departing daily from Seward at midday, knoch included.

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3144) has cross-country ski E Easy Ride Rentals (907 892 6988) hires spowmachines from £26 per hom on Big Lake. It also features snownobile tenday treks for £1,970 per . sightseeing flights over Mount McKinley with K2 Aviation (W1 733 229) com AS per person.

Reading Arctic Dreams,
by Barry Lopes (Pan, 57.99,
ISBN 0 330 29538 h. To the Top of Dennii, by Bill Sherwood (Alaska Northwest Books, 28.93, ISBN 0882404024).

memorable as the places I a farmer gold panner and trapper, who had sailed the entire 2,000 miles of the Yukon River and wore a bearskin coat and a recklace made from bear's teeth and claws and the vertebrae of salmon. There was former psychiatric nurse Dan Little who moved out to the Bush to work in a bar there he said he better for seeing the same people". There was Alison, a fourth-generation Athabaskan Indian, who showed me a pictore of her Rossian-speaking grandmother dressed in animal pelts and proudly holding up two rabbits she had just impped. And there was Jan. a typical incomer, who had left her job as an interpreter at the Los Angeles County Jail after meeting her funire husband skydiving.

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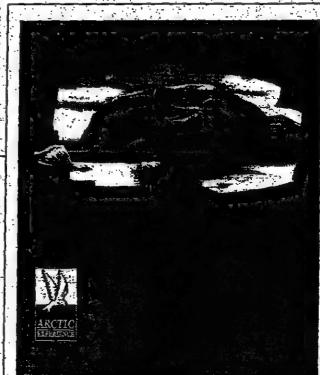
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 Detailed information available at the tourist

the places mentioned.

The guide The Staffordshire Way, by Les Lumsdon and Chris

Britain: On a hike from south to north, Robin Neillands recommends delightful spots away from the crowds

Secrets of a long-distance walker

TO SUGGEST that England is an undiscovered country is to invite ridicule. England is not Antarctica, though it sometimes felt like it last May when I was walking from the south coast to Hadrian's Wall. On that journey I passed through some surpassingly beautiful country, so, because good things should be shared, here is a selection of little known places well worth visiting. There are plenty more like these for those who make the time to look around

SOUTH DORSET AND THE FLEET

The Fleet is a great saitwater lake trapped off the Dorset coast by the Chelsil Bank. I. came on it in the evening, when the air was still, the clouds were pink-tipped by the setting sun and, apart from squadrons of swans floating serenely on the water, the place was deserted - and this only a couple of miles from the busy resort of Weymouth.

Apart from tranquility, the Fleet has history: it has been a nature reserve since 1393 and the swans are still protected and cared for by the Swannery at Abbotsford. The little church beside the shore at Old Fleet is all that remains of the village, destroyed in the last century by a tidal wave, but the church was a haunt of smugglers and features in John Meade Falkners classic tale Moonfleet.

South Dorset is a special place in a much-neglected county; Dorchester and the Thomas Hardy country pull in the crowds, but The Fleet is the place to linger.

SEVERN VALLEY

A good way to see the Severn Valley is to follow the Severn Way footpath. I walked north on it for several days, through fine towns such as Tewkesbury, with its ancient abbey, and Worcester, with its cathedral overlooking the county cricket ground, then up-riverto places like Stourport-on-Severn, a Mecca for river

Bewdley is small and pretty and lies at the southern end of the Severn Valley Railway. one of those newly restored lines that give character to the countryside. Because it was Saturday and the engines were "in steam". I took the train up to Hampton Loads, where one of the last Severn ferries carries passengers to the eastern bank; fare, 20p.

The Severn Valley around Bewelley is a little visited part of England, and the Severn



Robin Neillands pauses in the northern Pennines on his long walk of discovery from the coast of Dorset to the north of Cumbria and across the Scottish border to Portpatrick

ley, run by a passionate railway buff, is a good place to stay while touring.

STAFFORDSHIRE WAY

This is another of England's 20. IDOUD picked up near Codsail and followed to Uttoxeter, cutting through Cannock Chase, to skirt Birmingham, and head up towards the Peaks. The nowns are not pretty but there is a lot of good, open country. ideal for gentle walking, with plenty of pleasant villages and an abundance of cheerful

B&Bs; one that sticks in the mind had a notice on the bedroom door saying: "Guests are kindly requested not to do their ironing on the carpet."

The tourists who come this

way are heading for the Peak District, but the 92-mile-long Staffordshire Way is ideal for a one-week, crowd-free, auturnn walk, and I commend it.

WEST OF THE PENNINES

The Pennine Way, north of Buxton, is partly a bog and partly paved, and not all that attractive. Fortunately, the lower country to the west is delightful and threaded with towpaths and footpaths. Further west lies a great swath of industrial cities around Manchester, but there is plenty of open moorland here and it iseasy, and fun, to keep away from the cities, either using canal towpaths, or tramping on moorland routes such as the Oldham Way and the

Burnley Way. The Green Ash Hotel in Delph is a good place to stay, but other places to mark on the map are Uppermill and Denshaw for exploring the country to the north into Calderdale. Perfect.

AROUND MORECAMBE BAY

Morecambe is one of the great northwestern tourist resorts. but north of Morecambe the crowds thin out. The big

attraction of Morecambe Bay,

sunsets, is the walk across the sands with Cedric Robinson, the Queen's Guide, who leads parties across the wide and treacherous, 'estuary of the River Kent, from Arnside to

Arnside is a delightful little resort, small with just a promenade lined with guest houses, pubs and small restaurants but a splendid spot for walkers and birdwatchers. The whole area is spattered with nature reserves, flocks of wading birds parade across the sands. and those who fancy a spot of adventure can join Mr Robinson for his weekly bay walks.

NORTHERN LAKES

The golden rule in the Lake District is to head for the high fells as soon as you arrive and avoid the whole place in summer when it becomes overcrowded. In early spring is magnificent.

I spent two days here, based at Laurel Cottage, a superb B&B in Windermere, touring into the northern fells with the Mountain Goat company, which runs tours throughout Lakeland.

There are superb walks everywhere in the Lake District: around Buttermere and Coniston, over Helvellyn and around the Langdales, but one

not to miss is the full day tramp up Scafell Pike, at 977m (3,200ft) the highest mountain England, A day up on Scafell, with sweeping views over the lakes below and a couple of well-earned pints at the way back... Try it.

NORTHERN PENNINES

This is hill-walking country, a place for cheerful people wearing serious boots. I walked there over the Roman road called High Street from Windermere to Askham, and then on to Dufton, at the foot of the Pennines, both villages full of 17th-century cottages.
At Dufton 1 picked up the

Pennine Way and followed it for 20 miles over the open hills around Crossfell to Alston, the highest market town in England. All these places have good pubs and inexpensive B&Bs, but the great attraction is outstandingly beautiful country, with a merciful absence of crowds.

DUMFRIES AND

Hadrian's Wall marked the end of my walk but, before 1 headed back south, I crossed the Scottish border into Dumfries and Galloway and to Knockinaam Lodge, a small

hotel at Portpatrick near Stranger. Knockinaam is on the beach, without another house in miles, with good food and an amazing array of malt whiskies in the bar. The main tourist attractions up here are olf and the Robbie Burns Country, but Knockinaam is well off the too-well-heaten track, in country where subtropical gardens are warmed by the Gulf Stream, where long empty beaches host flocks of seabirds and where, just a few miles across the

ocean, are the green hills of Northern Ireland. After four, hard weeks travelling across England on foot, it was magic.



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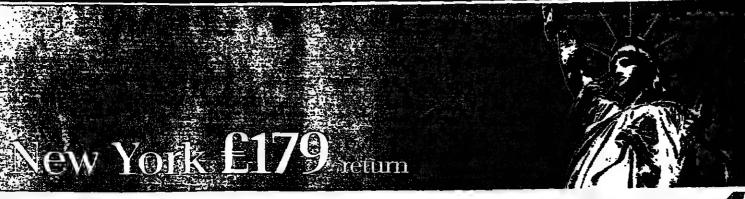
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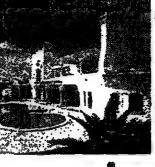
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Join jumbos and dragons

PAYING volunteers are needed by Earthwatch (01865 311600) for 130 environmental projects worldwide. In Botswana, they'll tackle the problem of too many elephants the country has 75,000 of them and be based at Chobe National Park, where there are 30,000 elephants in 7,000 square miles, monitoring behaviour and damage to acacia trees. The two-week project costs £1,120 without flights. On the Indonesian island of

Komodo, home of the six-foot "dragons", the fork-tongued lizards threatened with extinction, volun-teers will study their habitat. genetic patterns and prey (the latter includes the odd tourist, notably a Swiss visitor in 1979, and their own young). Primeval nasties, their evil-smelling breath and saliva is so toxic that victims often die from the bite. The project, also two weeks, costs £1,100.

The Earthwatch catalogue costs £3.50 for non-members (membership costs £25).

Booking now

AN OBSESSION with Spain over the past 25 years inspired Keith Harris to collect more than 3,000 books on the country. They are now available by mail order from Books on Spain (0181-898 7789).

Among his favourites is Two Middle-Aged Ladies in Andalusia (one of the ladies is a mare), by Penelope Chewode, wife of the late Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, a 1963 let edition (John Murray) 1963 1st edition (John Murray) costing £30, later editions from £10. Another favourite is The Bible in Spain or The Journeys, Adventures

and Imprisonments of an Englishman in an Attempt to Circulate the Scriptures in the Peninsula, by the eccentric George Borrow, published in 1843 by John Murray, an antiquarian edition costing £120, later editions from £10.

JILL CRAWSHAW 5 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

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RETURN COACH fares from any point in England and Wales to Paris from 154 for under 26s and over 60s, £58 for other adults, is offered by Eurolines (0990 143219) with National Express. From Scotland, the return fares are from £59 and £63 respectively. The journeys are via Victoria Coach Station.

Rent a cave

COTTAGES, châteaux and a winemaker's "cave" are among the 500 self-catering properties offered by Vacances en Campagne (01798 869461). For a party of eight in what is reputedly the oldest village house in the Dordogne showpiece La Roque Gageac, the costs are £1,116-£2,078. A 15th-century restored château, with a pool, near the Marais Poitevin in the Vendée, sleeping 15, costs from £2,978. The

converted winemaker's cave, now with a pool, in La Palme, Languedoc, can accommodate up to eight people and costs from £1.460. Prices are for two weeks and include ferry fares for one car and passengers, or local car hire for a

Lake break

AMONG THE most pastoral and least known of Europe's water-ways, the Mecklenburg and Brandenburg lakes between Berlin and the Baltic in former East Germany. are featured in the country cruise programme of Andrew Brock Trav-el (01572 821330). Boats or

pénichettes (derived from working barges), sleeping from two to 12 and costing £588-£2,310 per boat per week, can be hired to explore the wild underpopulated region of beech forests and pastures, pep-pered with medieval villages and rococo castles, and a way of life fast disappearing. You can also sail dinghies and swim in unpolluted lakes. The lakes are a day's drive from the Hook of Holland and selfdrive packages are available.

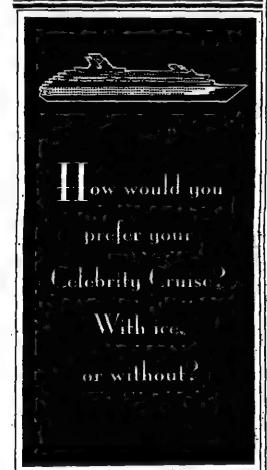
Going rural

THE NEW brochure Simply Portugal (0181-995 9323) from the Simply Travel Service offers quintas (man-or houses), farms and villas from Ponte de Lima in the north, to the delightful Tavira, and around Loulé, Sao Bras de Alportel and other lesser-known resorts in the Algarve. A week at the Gallery, an artist's apartment in the beart of Tavira's cobbled old town, costs £355-£430 each for two people. A seven-day rour called Wandering Portugal offers flights, car hire and accommodation in a choice of historic pousadas, the traditional Portuguese inns, from £499.



The population explosion of elephants in Botswana is causing problems. Earthwatch is seeking volunteers to monitor their behaviour

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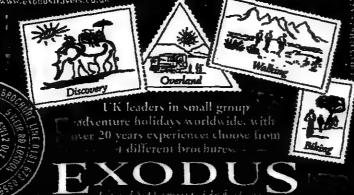
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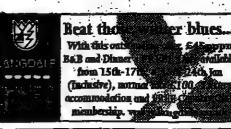
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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

defenceless.

In order to retain an open diagonal

for his bishop on b3, Kasparov has

been obliged to render his d4-pawn

However, if Black takes it there is

hidden compensation. For example, 17 . . . Nxd4 18 Nxd4 Bxd4 19

Nc3, with a powerful lead in

Alternatively, 18... Qxd4 19 Qel Qe5 20 Nc3 Qxel+ 21 Rxel, when Black probably has nothing better than 21... Be6 22 Bxe6 fxe6 23

Rxe6, with a small but clear

advantage to White. Ivanchuk had

doubtless been basing his entire

opening strategy on the weakness

of White's isolated queen's pawn.

So, when the time came to take it

and he found this impossible, his

Black has averted immediate dan-

ger, and even gained the bishop

pair, but the nagging pressure exerted by White's remaining bish-

op still leaves Black far short of

A superb example of centralising

one's pieces. White's forces are now ideally placed to attack on either

24 . . Re5 25 Ng4 Bxg4. 25 . . . Bxb2 fails to 26 Ndf6+ while 25 . . Bxd5 26 Bxd5 Rxd5

Black's decision to remove White's

dangerous knight is, therefore,

26 hxg4 Kg7 27 f4. But Black now

h6 28 15 g5 Nh7 30 Nhd6 Qx16

Rxd5 Qxd5 loses after

Nf8 20 Rd1 Be6 cxd5 22 Nxd5 Rc8 b6 24 Ne5

Nd7 18 Nd3 Nd6

morale was dashed.

achieving equality.

19 Cxh6

23 Qe3

fiank.

28 Nx66+.

development and many threats.

LAST MONTH's Las Palmas tournament featured the top six players in the world, making it one of the strongest ever held. By winning it by a margin of a clear point, the world champion. Garry Kasparov, demonstrated that he is still the dominant force, and that his mediocre results over the past year have been blips rather than a trend. He must have been particularly delighted with his win against Vassily Ivanchuk, who has twice beaten him in the past year and a

W: Kasparov, B: Ivanchuk 1 e4 Nf6. Alekhine's Defence is a particularly challenging line to adopt in a crucial game.

Nd5 3 d4 . d6

This is the modern way of handling this defence. Black develops his bishop on the flank and prepares to pummel White's extended pawn

6 0-0 Bg7 8 exd6 exd6 10 Bg5 Bf6 12 Rxe8+Nxe8 h3 Re1 Nc7

Black's gyrations with his king's knight appear eccentric, but he has created a situation in which the pawn structure is symmetrical and his development does not lag far behind White's. In other words, a draw would not be unexpected, and a draw with Black against Kasparov is quite a success.

13 Bh3. A deep move, preparing to undermine Black's centre with c4. The seemingly more natural 13 Nc3 allows 13 . . . d5 when the position really is level.



has to face a pawn storm with the bishop on f6 as a particular target.

The final reinforcement of White's attack along the a2-g8 diagonal. Once Black's pawn on f7 falls, his case becomes hopeless.

31 ... Re5 32 Rxf7+ 33 Cxe5+ Qf6 34 Qc7+ 35 Kh1 a5 36 Be6 Black resigns.

WINNING MOVE

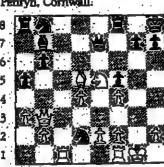
By Raymond Keene White to play This position is from the game Gausel - Briem, Reykjavík 1996.

Black must have felt optimistic here as he has just forked the 8 white queen and rook. What has he overlooked?

Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staumton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual 2 dinner at Simpson's-in-the 1 Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bg8

Last week's winner: H G Brown, Penryn, Cornwall:



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 35, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 22,

WHAT A crook! I have just lost a

fortune I never had, \$104 million,

and now I'm off for a stroll around

the boat — I just hope it doesn't

have slippery sides. Actually the

boat in question is not some

millionaire's yacht moored off the Canaries but VCl Software's steaming Riverboat Card Game

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gambling tactics the same way and

gameplay is fast and efficient. Tweaking the betting rules of the PC CD-Rom lets you increase the

pot in million dollar increments.

regardless of your credit status.

which can add a quirky buzz to the

- I've ended up with a more arty.

eye-pleasing and stylish terra cotta

The greatest artist of the 20th

pattern instead.





Apparently, it's the first time that Branson's lost his own luggage'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by R. Sargent of Bristol

century is Pablo Picasso, the

inventor of modern art of

whom everyone holds an

opinion on whether his works

please or offend the eye.

Though ismail and ivory's

latest film Surviving Picusso

is listless, with Anthony Hop-

kins curiously giving the ge-

nius a welsh accent, you get a

much clearer picture of what

he was about in the new

Grolier dual-format Mac and

This is a title of rare beauty.

having been given practically

unlimited access to all of

Picasso's archives as well as

bold endorsement from the

son of his mistress Françoise

Gilot, Claude. It immaculate-

ly traces Picasso's birth in 1881 in Malaga, Spain, to his burial in 1973 in France and

PC CD-Rom, Picasso.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard LETHIFEROUS

a. Causing to forget b. Deadly c. Bearing spores

MONITION a. Sideways drift b. A warning

c. Introducing money LASCARINE a. An old Indian soldier b. A laxative

c. A dancing girl LUBISH a. A coin b. Rude, lubricious

c. Chinese rubbish

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS WAS Question 3 in the Christmas Quiz. Partner deals and opens One Spade, you hold:

♦AKJ6♥AKJ1083◆J♣J9

What do you reply? (10 points). The hand occurred in the first match of the 1996-97 BBL Premier League, a teams event played to help the British selectors sort out the sheep from the goats. But I think the problem would be the same at rubber bridge.

In general you need to have at least second-round control in all suits before you launch into Blackwood, and that is what I have been recommending in the current series of Refresher columns on slam bidding. However, I think that 4NT is a reasonable speculation, and the most practical bid, on this hand.

If you bid Three Hearts in classic fashion, it's not clear how you should continue on the next round the bidding has already got uncomfortably high,

An immediate 4NT has two things going for it; if partner shows one ace you can bid Six Spades and leave the opening leader completely in the dark as to where to attack: and if partner shows two aces you can reasonably take a pot at Seven Spades.

Anyway, that's what I bid at the table, and Senior and I then bid the good grand slam. I gave 4NT 10 points; for the space reasons I mention above. I prefer Two Hearts (5 points) to Three Hearts (i) points).

The complete deal is shown at the top of the next column.. Three tables out of eight stopped in Six Spades; in each case North started with Three Hearts over One Spade.

eAKJ6 ¥ A K J 1083 **+**J9 N **♥Q**9765 W E (442 +O10864 S ♦Q10864 e 097532 •A953 **◆**A52

Contract: Seven Spades Lead; eight of spades

How would you play Seven Spades? One declarer put himself firmly with the goats by playing a second round of trumps at trick two. That was just admitting he had not counted his tricks. There are six in spades, two in hearts, and two minor-suit aces. Two diamond ruffs will make twelve, so declarer needs to develop a long heart for the thirteenth.

The correct technique, found by the other four declarers, is to ruff a heart (with the queen to be absolutely safe) at trick two, then play a second trump to dummy and continue ruffing out the hearts, using diamonds ruffs as Jurther entries to dummy. This line will fail only in the improbable circumstances of West having six or seven hearts headed by the queen. Playing a second trump at trick two leaves declarer an entry short.

Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NWI, from January 22-24. Information: 0181-878 5844. Ticket offer, page 8.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



The Grolier CD-Rom lets you view 600 Picasso originals

all he brought us in between. This work thematically is done with archive footage and

chronologically.

Gentrude Stein said Picasso slides plus an unprecedented 600 could see round corners. Picasso said he painted objects as he thought them. not as he saw them. Thanks to seven "manitoois", you Museum of Modern Art. The 17 can see a hundred or so of Picasso's main periods in Picasso's art are- major works from several viewauthoritatively covered, showing the main aspects and influences of points to reveal composition, construction and technique evolution.

Picasso's work only rarely turns up on multimedia CD-Roms - and then only in small numbers. For that alone this CD-Rom is the best Picasso treasury on the market. Whether the Grolier gem is the reason permissions to reproduce Picasso pieces have apparently been held up by the family for the last year or so is unclear. None of his works appeared in News Multimedia's Makers of the 20th Century, nor on the National Gallery CD-Rom when it was first released.

Still, 17 of his works appear in the Tate Gallery's PC CD-Rom Investigating 20th Century Art. This scholarly title is intended for the classroom, coming with both user's and teacher's notes, but works just as well at home. Descriptions are crisp and immediate and picture reproductions are respectable.

However you set off, all routes are entightening. More relaxed and endearing is Caillope's Rings — Five Passions in World Art. This is a slight but spellbinding exploration of the universal human emotions of love,

anguish, awe. triumph and joy. A

selection of sculptures and pictures spanning seven centuries from six continents come together - and it has the smoothest of magnifying facilities yet.

Two Picasso entries feature here. Mother With Dead Child and Head of a Weeping Woman With Handkerchief, under the anguish heading. But the most inspiring entry is from the love ring, Jean-Leon Gerome's Pygmalion and Galatea, which hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. As the narrator explains: "The sculptor, Pygmalion. fell so intensely in love with his statue that the very force of his emotion brought her to life, with a little help from the goddess of love. Aphrodite. Her son. Cupid, we see in the background as we watch the cold marvel of Galatea's legs become living flesh as the sculptor llings down his mallet in a wildly passionate embrace." Rings, on dual-format Mac and PC CD-Rom, is the stuff sighs are made of.

"Save wasting time and unnecessary expense on backing up your rues. Simi your work into an A4-lined pad as you go along." Cyberspace Twenty-Nine Top Tip entry from N. Safter of Thame, Oxon.

No 994

ACROSS

1 Pond plant; run to attack (4) 3 Contiguous (8)

8 Soft roll (7) 10 Something to write on, to sleep on (5)

II Its grin stayed longest (Carroll (8,3) 13 Kind; science journal (6)

15 Uncivilised; fierce (6) 17 Polite, obliging (11)

20 One from outer space (5) 21 (View) that can be held (7) - Swinburne; - Moncrieff

23 Leave out (4) -

DOWN

1 Ruddy (8)

Work slackly (slang) (5) 4 Depressingly duli (6) 5 'Club: friendship (11) 6. Daughter of Agamemnon

(7) 7 Ballet skirt (4) 9 Moonlight Sonata key

(1.5,5)12 Having perceptions (8) 14 Mattress fabric making

clock noise (7) 16 Very drunk (slang) (6) (Wilde-Importance) (8) 18 Cuttings book (5) 19 Icelandic family story (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 993 ACROSS: I Truthful 5 Spot & Lying 9 Unusual 11 Vie 12 Fieldsman 13 Virile 15 Wretch 18 Apostolic 19 Can 20 Extinct 21 Ovinc 22 Dire 23 Deadlock DOWN: 1 Tel Aviv 2 Unite 3 Highfalutin' 4 Usurer 6 Plum-

Talon 10 Under a cloud 14 Rooster 16 Henpeck 17 Clothe 18 Ahead 19 Chico PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (rest of the world add EI per ison)
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No 3393: Key Ring by Mass Concerning Caesar's power, face of Egypt is further proof

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

RADIAL ENTRIES read from rim to centre or vice versa, 24 of each; and the six unclued thematic entries in circuit x, one a phrase, read clockwise. Each sector is served by (a) two normal clues and (b) two abnormal clues in which definitions indicate full answers and subsidiary parts indicate the residual forms after omission of a letter wherever it occurs in that answer. The emitted letters clockwise from sector 1/4 spell out a key phrase which in a Playfair Code Square to be plotted by solvers (as below) gives the following coded equivalents: TZ LA MG UM DS WF PY TL PQ VS SE LZ. The key word in the square, thematic by fanciful association, should be written below the ring.

Playfair Code: A Playfair Square has a key expression in which no letter recurs (eg TURNKEY) followed by the rest of the alphabet (I=1/I). Any expression to be encided is split into pairs of letters (eg EM-BA-RK). Each pair is seen as forming the opposite corners of

T U R N K a rectangle within the code square, the
E Y A B C other two corner letters being the coded

D F G H I form. Thus, EM gives YL (not LY which

L M O P Q ME would give). If a pair of letters occurs

S:V W X Z in the same row or column, use letters immediately to the right of or below each respectively (BA gives CB). For the last letter in the row or column use the first letter of the same row or column (RK gives NT). Chambers Dictionary (1993) is recommended.

RADIALS (6)

CR

Glowing from a liquid measure in SE Goatish face of Comus, and satyr's tail, in wood Arouse affections with odd piece on organ

Five among trees abused legal right to timber

Split society stirring against Right Drah Poles? Money no longer rolls in Strike editor panned

Extremity causing ecstasy Pulse-still irregular about noon

ICKECPHIM

CADD

LEPHA

VWATE

ESBANGT

See-through top piece enthralls dated youth "He was a verray partit gentil knight" indeed? In Shakespeare? Cool (heartless) fat cabbage Hounds delaced property East in phase, radiating
Drunkard with short round (ponies, perhaps) Posts roughly about 1,000 - costly Character gobbling American dish British Liberal in the cart, monotonously Piece of brick gets Edward clobbered Grub experts died and most of tsetse flies Once set free, Sappers move obliquely Others, note, make good Constituency marking an alternative

Rest in debt apparently showed dependence Slight breeze — Southern river beginning to ruffle Quarrel, assert and stamp about

Neat historical centre for co-religionists One hears of a marvellous marital relationship in past Trouble back in East, previously unexpected Take in wallop? It's a race at wedding for Scotch Callosity? Sounds like rank rough sole LAtin women, recalling former injury, sowled Source of insecticide, bit of root, dries crinkly on outside Sodden tramps about lack of hope Indicate Shakespeare's set apart Cover curtailed with reduced bank order Letter about Spanish champion's resolve

Swaggered? Drawcansir finally p-played the coward? Brother shown the way, worn out Evangelical Union has Christian related to Greek painter Incapable of art that is trimmer (hyphen) Local voice from flat at end of street

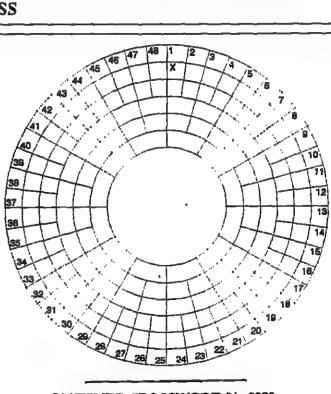
Card crushing bridge player's faded dream Charged main with electric flux Stops R.I. in schools Gin? Before quitting Peregrine's pickled Olive's relative has power to fascinate

> Solution to No 3390: Pin the Tail on the Donkey by Smokey

I flicker, 6 chimp, 10 acalepha, 15 hyenas, 16 skeeter, 20 stare. 22 castor, 23 snipe, 25 Mallard. 27 tapeti, 31 steare, 32 argali, 33 water-rat, 34 geese, 35 banteng, . Down, 1 rasse, 2 father-lasher, 3 cocktail, 4 clam, 5 kyne, 7 pademelon, 8 hind, 9 Irish terrier, II sea-ape, 14 sea-sleeve, 17 torns, 18 eyas, 19 aligarta, 20 scoter, 26 eland, 28 piet, 30 Wren.

The winner is P. Thomas of London NW2

The five runners up are J. Buckley of Oldham, Lancashire: A. Graham of Thundersley, Essex: A. King of Witney, Oxon; D. Lynd of Ardingly, West Sussex; B. Midgley of Crowthorne, Berkshire.



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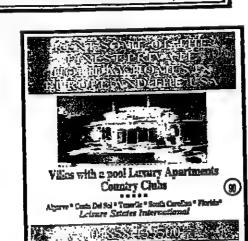
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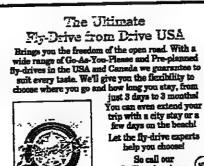


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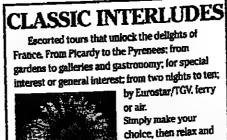
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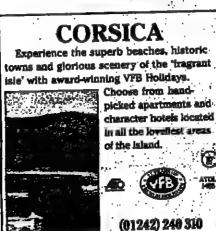
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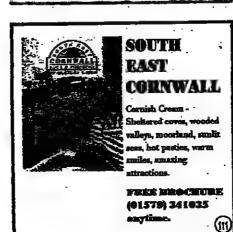


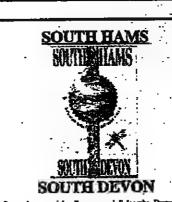


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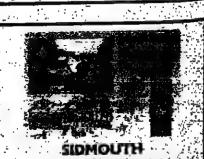
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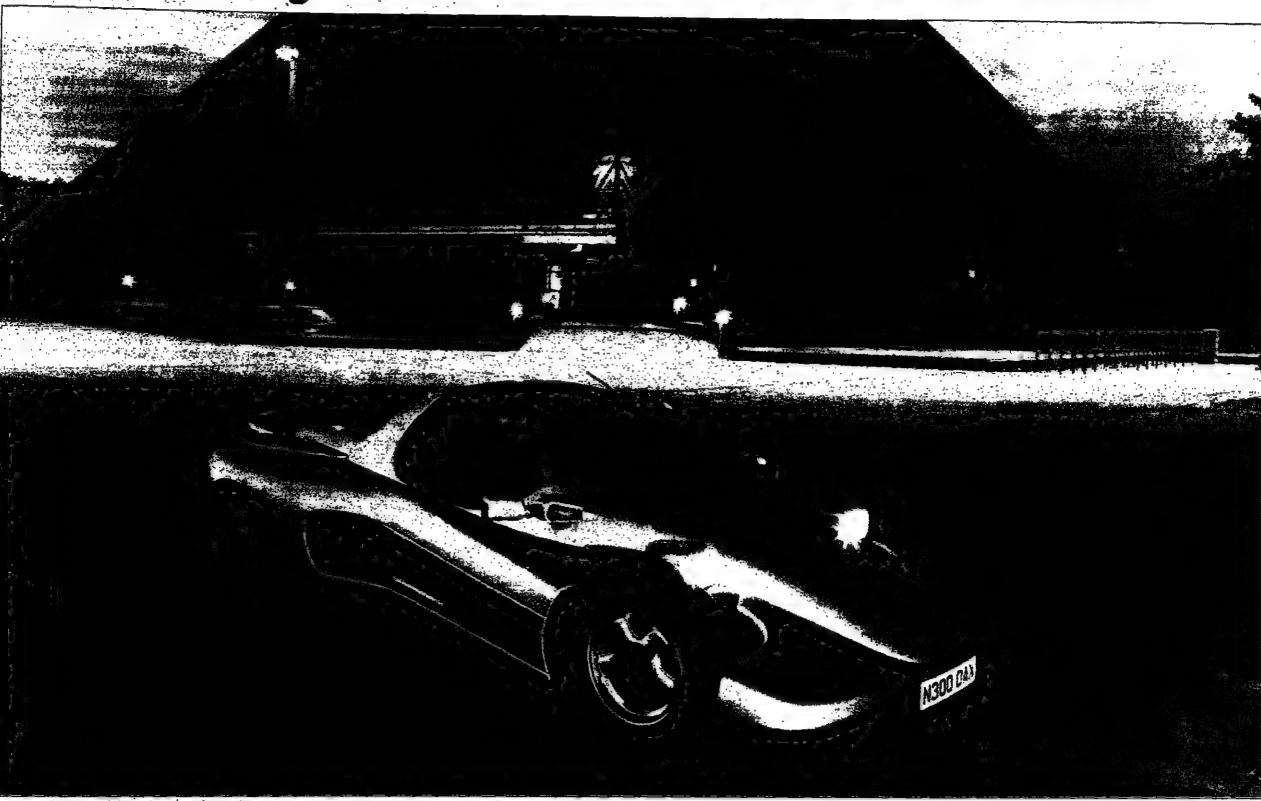
The latest big ideas come from Toyota engineers

الأصل



SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

Safely kitted out for the road



The Daz Kamala's sleek aluminium body is designed round a 2-litre, 340bbp Ford Cosworth turbo unit. It does 0-60mph in 3.9 seconds, about the same as a Ferrari F50, and has a top speed of over 150mph. Cost: about £12,000 plus your time

The photograph above might look like the scene outside a powerbroker's office in downtown Dallas: the chiefexects supercar parked proudly outside the state of the art building. In fact it's a kit car pictured outside a

swimming pool in Bedford. The kit car industry is largely based on selling two things that most of us think we can't afford: looks that can thrill and performance to make you gasp. The Dax Kamala in the picture has both: its sleek aluminium body is designed round a 2-litre; 340bhp Ford Cosworth turbo unit. It does 0-60mph in 3.9 seconds, about the same as a Ferrari F50, and has a top speed of over 150mph. It would cost you about £12,000 and several hours of careful assembly work.

Now the world of this and other customised cars is facing its biggest upheaval since the recession as new safety regulations come into force. Until now, most of these often eccentric vehicles needed no more than a standard MoT test before being allowed on the road. From July i, however, all amateur-built and kit cars must undergo a £200 safety check before they can be registered

The Kamala is produced by D.J. Sportscars of Harlow, Essex, which, They offer style and performance with an affordable price tag. Now

kit cars will have added official approval, reports Eve-Ann Prentice

embrace the safety rules. The car was designed by former Ford engineer, Peter Walker, who wanted to "produce something strikingly different". The project took four years from the first sketches to production last year and so far five have been made.

While it may seem astonishing that sometimes powerful machines have been allowed on the public highway without facing any safety checks, it is probably not belated common sense alone that has dictated the move. For the new regulation comes into force just five months before similar rules are to be applied throughout the European Community.

The new safety check, known as Single Vehicle Approval, will also apply to cars imported to Britain which are less than three years old and therefore do not have to undergo

The checks will be "far more rigorous than an MoT", according to a Department of Transport spokesman, and include inspections of steering, doors and latches, exhaust and smoke emissions, lamps and lights, mirrors, anti-theft devices, like most kit car-makers, is keen to seats and seatbelts, brakes, silencers,

glass, tyres, interior fittings, bumpers, speedometers, demisters and wipers, as well as the vehicle's general design, weight and

construction. John Bowis, the Road Safety Minister, who announced the details just before Christmas, said: "The scheme will bring personally imported, ama-teur-built and kit car vehicles generally into line with mass-produced vehicles in meeting the high stan-dards we expect, without placing an undue burden on individuals and

The scheme has been greeted with enthusiasm by most in the industry. not least because companies producing the kits will also be allowed for the first time to sell up to 50 fullyassembled vehicles a year. Until now, manufacturers have been allowed to sell a maximum of just nine fullybuilt cars, all of which had to be exdemonstration models.

The new system is also seen as giving the kit car industry official recognition by acknowledging that vehicles passing the checks are roadworthy. The industry can see the benefits," says lan Stent, Editor of

Which Kit? magazine. "It has emerged from the recession leaner, but fitter. You rarely see kit cars on the market now which are not pretty

good quality." Until the new rules come into force, there are two types of vehicle approv-al, both prohibitively expensive for small-scale manufacturers. The first is full EU-type approval which all mass car manufacturers' vehicles must undergo, and the second is a low-volume type designed for special-ist marques producing fewer than

500 cars a year.

Mark Wooldridge of the Association of Specialist Car Manufacturers, says: The SVA will make it far more difficult for shoddy cars to get on the road and this will give us a seal of approval." Wooldridge, who produces Quantum kit cars from his base in Birmingham, has already had his vehicles looked at. "We failed on a couple of minor things, such as hood catches which were slightly too sharp, and the exhaust, which had a sharp edge and was deemed to have been able to injure someone in an accident, but to put these things right only cost me £20-£25 per car.

"What has amazed me is that the people drafting the legislation have asked us what we think. It has been very good, commonsense stuff."

John Hoyle of NG Cars at Epsom, which makes kits of traditional-style cars "looking a little like a Morgan". is also upbeat about the new rules. "I originally thought it would spoil the look of the car but once you go into it there are solutions," he said. "It will put no more than 5 per cent on the cost of our cars, which sell at between £13,000 and £20,000.".

While there are about 250 kit car models in Britain, made by around 150 companies, only 60 or so manufacturers produce more than 20 cars a year from dedicated premises and only four or five make over 150 a year. Nonetheless, interest is high, with 42,000 people visiting the National

Kit Car Show last May. So is SVA good news all round? "The sad thing is it will knock out the real extroverts producing weird and wonderful cars in their garages." says Stent.

Peter Filby, publisher and chairman of Which Kit? magazine, adds: "We British are very inventive and really started the kit car industry. though America was very close behind. There are thousands of men out there who want nothing more than to make their own motor car."

Why be boring when you can be seen in something Special?

ith its huge front wings, roll cage, on-board fire extinguisher and low-slung stance. Colin Thompson's single-seat racer bears all the hallmarks of a Damon Hill-style Formula One machine, writes Vaughan The difference is that while

the Thompson Special cost £4,000 all-in, a Formula One engine costs around E100,000, a set of brake discs and pads £7,000 and a chassis £500,000. More Heath Robinson than hi-tech, Colin spent £450 on a very second-hand 2.3-litre Ford Granada estate as the "heart" of his racer, and took two-and-a-half years to build it, with the £4,000 budget including a second, more powerful 28-litre engine.

The Thompson Special proves that in a world of carbon-copy, safe and com-fortable, but yawningly tedious modern cars, the homegrown machine is thriving as motorists, frustrated trying to buy the car they want off the

shelf, build their own instead. The Thompson Special is fully taxed, MoTd, and insured. With headlights, indicators and number plates, it is fully road as well as race legal, which means its proud owner can drive it to a circuit, race, and then drive home again.

Thompson, 39, a former technician with Racal, built the car himself at home in New Malden, Surrey. The road to the Special started when he began a course learning how to race singleseater cars, and was bitten by the single-seater bug.

The trouble was, he could either go on taking lessons. Continued on page 3

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It's time the test was privatised

new driving test was introduced in July last year and six months later, on January I this year, a number of important changes were made to it. There is nothing wrong with revising a scheme, indeed line tuning was bound to be needed, but I am mystified as to why the test methodology remains rooted in the era of the Model T (not that you had to pass a test then).

In Car 97 last week, several driving schools which run intensive courses complained about one change, which involves the need to take a theory test before drivers can book, let alone take, a practical. This knocks seven bells out of intensive courses, which are predicated on getting through the whole gruesome learning-resting process

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

instructors, but their problems are not the only reason why changes ought to be made.

The theory test should be taken on a computer screen. Even computer-illiterate people could handle sitting in front of a terminal would be available immediately.

There are two reasons why the present test is conducted with pen and paper and then taken away for marking. One is the cost of installing computers: the other is the legal requirement that the driving test be "equally accessible to all candidates". Of course, there are people, especially elderly people, who are intimidated by computers. But because some people have to take the test on paper does not mean everyone has to: a combination of methods can be used. That leaves the cost argument, though [doubt whether putting a basic computer in every test centre would cost any more than employ ing an army of people to print, distribute and mark test papers.

Still, let us suppose that cost is a

money and plenty of sophisticated technology in industry, so the answer is to privatise the driving test. Now get up off the floor and

The test is already half privatised. Although it is administered by the Driving Standards Agency, the day to day running of

DriveSafe Services Ltd won the, contract. There is no reason why the DSA should not continue to have a regulatory role, with the private sector running the tests and putting up the money in exchange for potential profits.

BETWES TREET UBART STORE

Organisations like the institute of Advanced Motorists, the AA

DriveSafe - could be encouraged to form consortia to bid for the test. I see no reason why leading driving schools should not join these consortia: the argument that they have a pecuniary interest in test results is made irrelevant by the fact that failing candidates

who think that unless they get on with a more technological approach, the pressure to privatise will increase. This is why I fully expect the theory test to be conducted on computer screens within five years. But a change of government is only five months away and Tony Blair will quickly face the fact that promises cost money.

The privatisation of the driving test by a Labour government would be among the greatest ironies, a Thatcherite principle given its ultimate expression. But I would not bet against it happening and I hope that it does.

■ Alan Copps and myself will shortly force ourselves to ear a decent lunch for once while we pore over your hundreds of entries for the competition to give the Ford Ka a decent nickname. The champagne winner will be announced in a week or two. Meanwhile, my thanks to the ten people from my eldest daughter's office who submitted suggestions, knowing of course that I would never live down allowing them into the competition proper. I expect my daughter suggested Ford Katastrophe because she drives a Vanxhall, but Laurie Stewart's Fort Karma has a pice ring to it.



New regulations for the caravan towing test are complicated, but the Caravan Club can offer newcomers expert advice on safety measures and how to avoid the pitfalls

Before we start, who are you?

Drivers fail the pressure test

When low inflation can cause disaster

are running an unnecessary risk of an accident this winter through poorly inflated tyres, according to a survey of more than 2,000 cars, writes Alan Copps.

Nine out of ten cars inspected were found to have at least one tyre wrongly inflated and 14 per cent of those were so badly wrong as to jeopardise handling and control. If the sample was representative of the 22 million car population, that means three million drivers are running around on potentially lethal wheels, says the RAC.

The most alarming conclusion of the survey was that almost a third of motorists never check their tyre pressures. The Association of Chief Police Officers, which has joined the

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Tread Safely campaign. points out that driving with defective tyres is an offence leading to a possible £2,500

The survey was carried out for the National Tyre Distributors' Association, which is offering a free inflation service and tyre pressure advice at all its 2,800 member centres across the country. Half those asked said they knew the recommended pressures, but only one in four said they checked them weekly, which is regarded as a safe minimum.

Edmund King, head of campaigns for the RAC, said: "Tyres must not be forgotten simply hecause they do not trigger warning lights in the dashboard. They are the only contact a car has with the road."

5,000 bhp and 5,000 lbs ft of

TORQUE MEAN A TOP FUEL

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300 MPH IN LESS THAN

the theory and the practical driving tests will have to provide photographic proof of their identity from March I in an attempt to stamp out

The Driving Standards Authority, which administers the tests, is concerned that in some parts of the country candidates are sending along older relatives or more experienced drivers to take the test in their place and ensure a pass.

The new rule will be an-

nounced within the next few weeks, Car 97 has been told. A number of prosecutions have been brought against people for impersonating candidates. Inquiries have established that the practice is more prevalent in certain parts of Britain, mainly inner-city areas. Examiners have been trained to spot tell-tale signs, such as middle-aged people apparently taking the test for

The acceptable forms of photographic proof are expected to include passports and employee identity cards. The move follows a series of

revisions to the driving tests for cars, motorcycles and

MITH 1,500,000 CARS PUNNING 3

YUND LONDON DAILY

VAUXHALL CROSS IS G

RECKONED TO BE THE

BUSIEST ROAD JUNCTED

Alan Copps and Eve-Ann Prentice on beating the driving test cheats and learning to tow your caravan in safety

heavier vehicles which came into force on January 1. The DSA has been criticised for not blicising these changes sufficiently. The main change means that candidates for all forms of driving licence must now pass a theory test before they can apply for a practical

The new driving test rules have also focused attention on growing number of courses to help those baffled or intimidated by the changes. Some of the latest are aimed at caravan-owners and prospective car drivers who may need special help to get through the theory test.

Learner car drivers and motorcyclists who are worried about the theory test can now take special courses at Theory Learning Centres which are being set up around the coun-. The centres, the brainchild of Jon Gross, a former development manager of the Motor Schools' Association, offer

an unuşual "guaranteed pass"

FOR CORGIS VERSION OF

TON MARTIN DB5

policy. If any new driver fails the theory test after taking the course, he or she can return for as many free lessons as it takes them to pass. A complete course of twenty 45-minute lessons costs £120. For information telephone 0121-244

The new caravan rules are complicated. Licence-holders who passed their driving tests before January 1 are not affected, but anyone learning now needs to pass a towing test if the weight of their vehicle and trailer or caravan combination is more than 3,500kg. People who want to tow less than that combined weight need not take the towing test, provided the trailer does not weigh more fully laden than the empty towing

The towing test involves a simple reverse S manoeuvre similar to that taken by large goods vehicle drivers, and a hitching and unhitching test. The Caravan Club is running a series of courses that begin in March and caravans are provided. "All the participants have to provide is a car fitted with towing bracket and electrics, plus extension mirrors if the existing car mirrors will not give an adequate rear view down the sides of the cara-

van," says a spokesman. The one-and-a-half day practical caravanning course for "the less experienced" costs 555 and a one-day manocuvring course for those with manoeuvring difficulties

A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE

mation contact the Caravan. Club's Events department on 01342 326044

More advice for caravanners will be available at the Caravan Leisure Home Show at Manchester's G-Mex centre from next Thursday to Sunday. Officials from the Caravan Club, Greater Manchester Police and the RAC will be on hand to give information about the new test requirements, the best tow cars and safety and security.

Unsuitable tow cars, poor loading of caravans and insufficient attention to mirrors when towing are among the faults blamed by police for accidents involving caravans. Although towing a caravan for the first time can be daunting for many drivers, the Caravan Council says many pitfalls can be overcome through following a few simple rules.

First, it is important to match your car to the weight of the caravan, which for the lessexperienced should not exceed 85 per cent of the car's kerbside weight. However, engine capacity and gearing are also crucial and this is one reason why expert advice should be sought. The noseweight of the caravan also needs to be checked against the recommended noseweight for the TOW CAY

keep the weight in the caravan low down and as close to the axie as possible. Emptying water tanks and toilets helps reduce weight. The alignment of car and caravan is also vital. They should be level when viewed from the side. Mirrors should be set wide enough to see right down the sides of the caravan and, if they fail this test, extension mirrors should be fitted before setting off. Box Office for Caravan Show

eLONDON A406 Upper Edmonton.
Major roadworks on Angel
Road (North Circular Road)
over the Lea Valley Viaduct.
A3 Kingston, Northbound lans closure on the Kingston bypass between Shannon Comer (A298) and Coombe Lane Junction (A238) for

work on Carters Bridge. M1 Hendon area. Major roadworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or from the A1 Great North Way. A504 Hendon area. Roadworks on Hendon Lane, with no access from the A504 Inchiey Lane or the Af Great North Way, A232 Wallington, Road-

works on Groydon Road Milnor Road SOUTH-EAST A330 Ascot, Berkshire. Roadworks to widen the road

about. Temporery lights in place.
M40 Buckinghamshire.
Long-term roadworks with a
contraflow between junotion 1a (M25) and junction 3.
(Wycombe East).
A27 Brighton. Overnight
(100m-6am) maintenance (10om-6am) maintenance work on the Brighton by-Junction and Ditchling Road Bridge. M27 Hampshire, Long-term

roadworks with lane closures between junction 8 Southampton) and junction 10 (Fareham). A2 Canterbury. Roadworks both directions for bridge CONTRACTOR OFFICE.

M25 Surrey. Restrictions. and issa closures both wave between Godstone and the A3 as major widening work continues. SOUTH-WEST

A35 Christchurch, Dorset Fountain Way and Stony
Lane roundabout. M32 Gloucestershire Long-term roadworks with peak times between junction 1 (Bristol Ring Road, Hambrook) and junction 2.

M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Also contratiow in operation across the Avonmouth Bridge. M5 Somerset, One lane: closed northbound for communications work. A46 north of Bath, Somet set. Reduced to one lane both ways at Treetops, between Beth and the A420. A338 Salisbury, Wiltehire area, Lane closures both ways on New Bridge Road at

A1 Alconbury, Cambridge

shire. Reduced to one lane northbound during mainte nance work at Alconbury Hills (A14/A604), as is the A14. A6 Lockington, Leicestershire. Major roadworks and a contrallow, with only one

A14 Nottingham, Off-peak (9.30am-4pm) roadworks and ane closures in both directions between the Railway St tion and Broad Street. A500 Staffordshire, Stoke area. Contration with only one lene opert each way be-tween Talke (A34) and Longoort (A527 Porthill). M5 West Minlands, Major roadworks at junction 2 Dudley (A4094/A4123 Oldbury) closing southbound entry and northbound exit stip roads.

NORTH M6 Cheshire. One lane closed each way over the Thelwell Viaduct. Me Gender Manchester. Bridge maintenance work be-tween junctions 25 (Wigan) and 27 (Standish) with a 50mph limit. MS3 Merseyuide. Bridge maintenance work at junction 2 /Birkenhead) with only one lane open each way on the Moreton Spur. M1 West Yorkshire. Longterm roadworks continue

around the Leeds junction with tane and speed restric tions. Delays on the Mi, M621 and Dewsbury Road. - WALES AAB2 Aberaeron

Ceredigion. Upper Abereston. Bridge on South Hoad is closed for reconstruction work. A470 north of Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil. Temporary lights on Brecon Road for major works; 40mph limit on A465 at Cafe Coed. A485 Port Talbot, north of Neath, Contraflow betw Aberdulais (A4230) and M4 Swansea. Carriageway reduced to one lane in both directions for roadwork botween Swanses and Llanelli. A472 Pontypeol, Tortaen. Contration between

Roundabout @ SCOTLAND A937 Montrose, Angus. Roadworks and restrictions in both directions on Hillside. M8 Edinburgh. Major road-works, with lane closures on the roundabout at Junction 2 (Newbridge Spur, M9). M8 Glasgow. Overnight (8pm-6am) eastbound entry alip roads closed for road-works at Charing Cross and Great Western Road. A92 Tay Road Bridge, place at the bridges. Also large closures southbound. A9 Greenloaning, Perifr & Kinross. Contraflow four miles

east of Dumblane.

Pontymoile and the Heron



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Has anyone seen a Qwunkalumpas?

STEERING COLUMN

f you have heard a rather fine soprano trilling in the car next to you when you pulled up at traffic lights recently, it could have been Della Jones. She likes to practise at the wheel for her lead role in Rossini's The Italian Girl in Algiers, which opens tonight at the Coliseum in London

In reality, she is a girl who is proud of her Welsh origins and has made it to the top of the international operatic tree. She has sung the most demanding mezzo-soprano roles in the world's leading opera houses as well as "doing" the Last Night of the Proms in 1993 and making many records. After studying at the Royal College of Music, she won, among other prizes, the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship.

She has sung with all the UK opera companies, espe-cially Welsh National and English National. She sang the demanding role of Baba The Turk in the acclaimed Welsh National production of Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress, which was brought triumphantly last year to Covent Garden. She has often appeared at the Geneva Opera House and "the gorgeous" La Femice in Venice. She continues a hectic concert and recital schedule. Tonight's English National Opera production of the The Italian Girl in Algiers by Howard Davies presents her with a hugely demanding role but one she knows well. having sung it at Nantes two years ago.

How did you first learn to drive?

In a square yellow thing. I think it was called a Hillman Minx. I learnt on an automatic and have always driven an automatic, i soon realised after becoming an opera singer that rehearsal rooms and theatres are far apart. I was rehearsing Carmen for the ENO and that involved several changes of tubes etc. So it gritted my teeth and passed the test first time. I was

fearless then. Hyde Park Corner and the like never worried me. High streets with drivers trying to find a parking place are more of a trial.

What was your first car?

An Austin Maestro: I was doing Opera North, WNO and ENO all at once, so I had to learn the motorways of Britain fast. But everything that could go wrong with that car — it was new — went wrong. It broke down everywhere. Eventually I had a wonderful relationship with a Mike Capon in British Leyland's complaints office. I rang up reversed charges and told him where I was and he sent out a mechanic. This went on for six months. It broke down for good in Swansea and BL. offered me either my money back or a new car.

What car do you drive now?

and Chroen BX. My husband is a sound recordist, so we choose whichever is the most suitable for the day. The Citroën is always full of clutter. Mostly my seven-year-old's.

Do you enjoy driving?

I love it. I put on Radio 4 and listen away. With that I can cope with traffic jams, snarlups and motorway gridlocks no trouble at all.

What is your dream can?

Bright egg yolk colour. Any make. But it has to have wings; when I drive my son to school we pretend the car has wings so that he isn't late. I confess that stretch limos are quite fun in the States, but I wouldn't pay for them every day of the year.

What is your most hated car?

One that breaks down. What is your worst habit

in a car? Singing Loudly I do occasion hog your backside and flash

on a motorway. Then there's the awful bunch who delight ally shout at other drivers, but I love sitting there making up in coming up really close on an cadenzas for a Handel or Rossini aria. Other drivers at open but twisty road and, because they know the road, "lights often amazed, but I carry on. flash their lights and honk

What infuriates you most

That they exist. Drivers who

about other drivers?

What is the most unusual thing you have done in a cart

The soprano Valerie Master-

a concert in Spain and got caught up in the most horrendous traffic jam. We had to change into our party frocks in the back of the car. We gave strict instructions to the taxi driver to keep his eyes to the front. We arrived on time and looking great. My son and I often go out for drives in search of the Qwunkalumpas,

son and I were being driven to a rare breed of animal which no one else has heard of. We are the only people who know about them or can see them! It's also our word and no one else has heard about this rare breed. We can be driving along and he will suddenly shout "Mummy, there's a Qwunkalumpas!". So I stop and we rush off. We do our searching on traffic free roads!

Have you any points on your

No. I am a good girl, I am.

What do you listen to on your car radio/cassette while

I am hooked on Radio 4, as I said. The rule in this house is that the dial must remain on

Radio 4. If I am driving home after a concert or performance.

I listen to the World Service, which I always try to catch when I am abroad.

What is your worst/favourite car advertisement?

Never look or listen to them. I can't even think of one. I'm just not that interested.



Della Jones: "I occasionally shout at other drivers, but I love sitting there making up cadenzas for a Handel or Rossini aria. Other drivers at traffic lights look amazed, but I carry on"

An ace Blackjack •from a Citroën 2CV

Continued from page 1 and run out of money without any. promise of winning a drive in someone else's car at the end of it all, or cut the lessons short and instead build his own single-seater

I had about £1,300 to spare when I started," he says, "I spent £450 on a 2.3-litre Granada Estate." The bills mounted though, as £500 went on building the steel chassis and aluminium body panels, and £1,700 on "bits and pieces". The only part of the car Thompson could not make was the roll frame which had to be made to race specification. The Thompson Special will

reach a top 124mph, and has a 0-60mph time of well under six seconds, depending on gear-ing. Thompson says: "It has a four speed gearbox, and to change the gearing I use bigger rear wheels on racing circuits for a higher top speed, and smaller rear wheels on hill climbs to improve the acceleration."

If the car is fun on the road, it is positively exhilirating on the track: I have driven it a number of times at Goodwood, and bad my trickiest moment just after I had put in the 2.8-litre engine. I was going through the curve where Stirling

Moss had his big accident and I was doing about 115mph when suddenly the back started to weave to be speed that thrills.

around. When you lose control at 115mph for the first time, I can tell you it is quite exhibitating."

We might not be thrilled by such a

'moment", but perhaps the problem with so many new cars is that all too often the car that suits is not always one that excites. Which is why the bright yellow lightweight three-wheeler from Cornwall-based car designer Richard Oakes, stirs such interest. It does not have

The Oakes Blackjack Avion cycle-car harks back in looks to the days of winding, empty country lanes, when hedges and haywains

rather than articulated trucks were the driver's companion. Reminiscent of pre-war cars such as the three-wheeler Morgan, it is based around, of all things, the wheezing innards of the Curoën 2CV, all 602cc and 30bhp of it.

With a powerplant more Jane than Tarzan, no roof, an air deflector rather than a full windscreen, three wheels instead of four, and room only for two, the Blackjack is a long way from the cossetting modern saloun.

Richard Oakes, who studied at the Royal College of Art and worked for Ford, is an independent

automotive designer who has worked with small independent car makers as well as established names like Aston Martin.

The Blackjack is built around the 2CV, which is not a very fast car, but the Blackjack is much lighter than the original Citroen,

The Oakes Blackiack Avion: "an antidote to technology"

wards the 2CV," he says. "This is not an out and out sports car. It is a 'country lane' car, a lowtech alternative for people looking for an antidote to technology. It nips along, it works very well, is quite charming, and quality engi-neering has gone into it."

and people feel very warmly to-

Oakes believes that interest in such cars stems from the need to find motoring fun: "I am nearly 50 years old, and 20 years ago would have classed myself as a car nut. Then at least the roads were full of interesting cars. Today, those cars that are interesting are either very expensive, or are older cars and bring with them all the problems of

The Blackjack is his alternative. Customers need to find a donor 2CV - an MOT failure, which can be bought for as little as £100, is fine, as the chassis is not needed. The engine, steering, brakes and front suspension are the key ele-

These are married to the Blackjack Avion kits, available from the most basic £875 pack, right up to the luxury £4,500 package which includes everything from sub-frames and moulded bodywork to handbuilt steel wheels and handstitched leather interior.

Oakes says: "Building one requires no specialist knowledge of wiring or of welding. People want different things, but we calculate it should take only three or four weekends to put a car together."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe gears up

CAR SALES increased in every country in Western Europe in 1996, according to provisional figures. The biggest increases were in two of the smallest countries — Norway, up 38 per cent, and Ireland, up 32 per cent. The average increase was 6.6 per cent. The smallest increases were in Italy, just 32 per cent, Switzerland, up 2.5 per cent, and Priving where sales of 2.025 SWI represented a 41 per cent gain. and Britain, where sales of 2,025,500 represented a 4.1 per cent gain.

Through a glass darkly

DRIVERS who don't wear their glasses behind the wheel either through vanity or forgetfulness could put other road users at risk, says the AA. A study of 6,000 motorists found that of those needing glasses only 16 per cent of men wore them compared to 23 per cent of women. It is estimated that one in four drivers need glasses. "Sharp vision is essential to road safety, particularly during winter when poor weather and low light can lead to eye strain," said Andrew Howard, AA head of road safety.

Multi-coloured Lexus

CUSTOMERS for Lexus, the luxury cars made by Toyota, have persuaded the company to change its policy on colours and trim. They can now have any combination of exterior and interior colour rather than the limited choices previously on offer. The company says cars will be built to individual order. The most popular exterior colours in 1996 were Aspen Green and Cashmere Gold.

Marcos I up for sale

THE FIRST Marcos ever built, commisioned in 1959 for Jackie Stewart, is to be sold by Brooks at its sale of collectors' cars and automobilin at London's Olympia on February 2. It was perfored by automobilia at London's Olympia on February 22. It was restored by the company's founder, Jem Marsh, in 1976 and raced successfully in historic events for many years.

AA backs MP on bull bars

BULL BARS should be banned, said the AA as it gave a welcome to the Ten Minute rule Bill to outlaw the notorious accesories for off-roaders, introduced by Paul Flynn. MP for Newport West, in the Commons on Tuesday. Latest figures from the Transport Research Laboratory suggest that estimates of deaths due to bull bars have been overstated in the past and they can only be blamed with certainty for about three fatalities and 40 injuries a year. "That's still three deaths too many," said the AA.

Volvo raises the roof

THE FIRST open-top Volvo for 40 years was unveiled at the Detroit Motor Show this month, a convertible version of the C70 Coupé, which will star in the new Saint film. It will be powered by a turbocharged 5-cylinder engine and the chassis has been developed with the help of TWR, who run Volvo's touring car race team.



Volvo's new C70 Coupé: a Saintly conversion after 40 years

FIFTY YEARS OF MAKING KIT CARS

THE KIT car is deemed by enthusiasts to be 50 years old this year, half as old as the motor car itself. In 1947, Derek Buckler took the first steps in making his own car by making a space frame chassis and began production a year or so later:

The state of the s

● ABOUT 5,000 kit cars, worth on average £5,000 to £6,000 each, are now made in Britain every year, of which 20 per cent are exported.

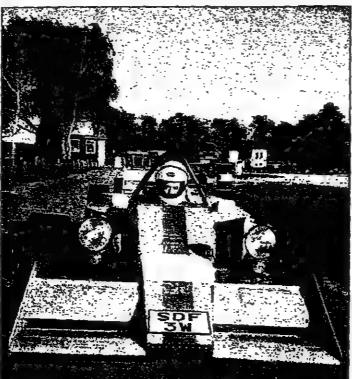
 PROBABLY the most famous and widely sold kit car was the Lotus 7. Created by the company's founder, Colin Chapman, in 1957, it has been produced in one form or another ever since. The manufacturing rights are now held by Caterham, who sponsor race series for the car in five countries.

which sells 15 to 20 of its threewheeler kit cars abroad every month. The models, costing £3,000-£5,000, are popular in France, Belgium and Holland. ■ THE Association of Specialist Car Manufacturers is an un-

brella organisation of some of the main kit car-makers. For more information, contact association members Mark Wooldridge on 01384 834422 or Peter Bailey on 01308 897072.

♦ WHICH KIT? magazine can be contacted on 01737 222030. • THE NEW safety checks for kit and amateur-built cars will be "far more rigorous than an MoT, according to the Department of Transport

 ABOUT 150 companies make kit cars in Britain, but only 60 or so produce more than 20 cars a ONE main exporter is the Lomax Motor Company based in Halesowen, West Midlands, 150 cars a year.



Thomson in his Special: fun on the road, exhibitating on the track

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The complex art of painting your wagon



Colour me incompetent: Helen Mound, in compulsory full protective gear, starts on her ill-advised freehand attempt to reproduce Car 97 with stencil plastic and spray paint . . .

ake me to your lead-er. I wish to learn to flip-flop. Then I will-fade in, blend and fade out. Once I've mastered this. I'll try a full edge-to-edge

PPG Industries, the largest world, is accustomed to this curious request. It runs one of Britain's leading car painting schools, and flip-flop paint, fading, blending and edge toedge spraying are four of the techniques it teaches to car dealers' and garage body-shops' paint technicians. I might look like something

from outer space in the full protective gear, which includes breathing equipment, but inside the PPG Auto Refinish Training Centre in Birmingham everyone dresses like this. The furnes alone could overpower you in the spray booth, and smoking or using a mobile phone is forbidden within 100 yards of the centre for fear of an explosion.

Most people think that car paint is black and white plus a few other colours - but the technology has become so complex that the Refinish Centre provides 52 different courses, covering subjects from warranty repair to specialist techniques such as fadein (where one colour blends to another without an obvious

therwise known as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, PPG Industries has been around for more than a century. Having started in plate glass in 1883 in the United States, it swiftly added automotive paints to its manufacturing abilities when the car industry took off 100 years ago. Today armual sales exceed \$7 billion (£4.2 billion) and all the world's major car producers use the company's automotive coatings technology", including Ford, Toyota, Rover, Fiat, Nissan, Saab, BMW and Daewoo.

The trains on London's Underground are finished in PPG's graffiti-resistant paint, and when the Shuttle was pulled out from the Channel tunnel after the fire last year. PPG's heat-resistant paint was still intact while everything else was singed.

But PPG's main business is in the automotive industry and it has developed a close link between original paints for car factories and refinish products for bodyshops. The company understands the problems involved in paint repairs outside a factory environment, reproducing complicated colours in bodyshops and repairing complex finishes, which is why it opened the Refinish

Training Centre. The man in charge of the operation is Bob Magee, otherwise known as the Pearly King for the colours I can





... only to be told by Bob Magee, left, that "letters and figures are the hardest to reproduce and should only really be tackled after a lot of practice"

create with pearl paints that most people think are impossible". Magee has been in car

paints for 30 years, and knows how to make a new car design look its best using colour and how to get the best colours out of new paint technology. When the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders commissioned its Concept Car 2096" for last year's Motor Show, Magee was asked to finish it in something that didn't look like paint.

With the help of three other paint technicians, he completed the task in three days. The result was a glass-looking finish hailed by the industry as an impressive success.

Mixing paints and experi-menting with colours is Magee's favourite part of his job, and he spent a day teaching me the tricks of the

Paints currently fall into four basic categories; metallics (using flecks of ahiminium that can vary in size and colour); micas (also known as

pearls, using transparent spheres that vary in size and colour); lenticulars (similar to micas, but the particles are oval-shaped to create greater reflections, which result in brighter colours); and good old-fashioned flats

(that benefit from The fumes ever-improving pigments to produce brighter yellows and reds. Flip-flop — also known as "threestage pearls* - is a

colour is applied, then a mica to provide a pearlescent effect, and then a coloured glaze. The flip is the light effect and the flop is the shade or colour. More mica gives more flip, more

name for a tech-

nique using mica

paints. First a basic

colour gives more flop. Simple, when you know how. No paint is financially viable unless the desired result can be achieved in two or three coats. My own creation would

prove costly on the amduction

orange, flame red and light yellow pearl, I'd made a paint that looked absolutely wonderful in the tin, but provided very little coverage and needed to be applied to my door panel six times before it would work.

Magee advised that to get the finished result I was alone could aiming for I should have applied a coat overpower of orange first for good coverage. you in then my colour for the effect and, fithe booth nally, glaze to increase the pearl-

look. Years of experience have taught him how to identify the paint needed to flatter the lines of a car. He tells me how my pearlescent paint would look dull on a Rover Metro, but bright if applied to a Volkswagen Beetle because of its

The practical side of my day's course was fun, but difficult. A steady hand is

line. With a mix of sunburst 'needed to apply the paint evenly with a spray gun 6ins from the door panel, which (didn't find a problem. But it all went horribly wrong when I attempted some freehand work. I'm clearly not a natural with a spray gun, so I went for what I thought was the simple approach, cutting the figures "Car 97" out of some stencil

> omehow I don't think it will make it as this year's logo. Magee pointed out, after I'd spent two painstaking hours painting the stencil, that "letiers and figures are the hardest to reproduce and should only really be tackled after a lot of practice".

The centre trains 900 students' a year from paint distributors, car dealerships and bodyshops. Courses cost £100 a day. And if you still think that car paint technology is all black and white, consider the fact that PPG now has 500

YOUR CAR'S COLOUR CAN FADE

Out of fashion and in the red

Buying a car in a trendy colour could be assessed might love the popular vivid greens, sparkling now, but don't be fooled into thinking they will al-Helen Mound.

Manufacturers are striving to offer ever more attractive colours, but customers are discovering that choosing the wrong one can be a costly mistake. Dealers say that motorists looking for trade-ins on their cars in fashionable colours usually get lower deals. An Apricot pared to the second-hand prices of more sober-coloured models.

Executives who pick Turquoise for their Jaguar XJR are likely to be penalised by those with dark metallic paintwork. A BMW in a non-metallic colour can lose between £300 and £400 in value, and Land Rovers in anything other than dark blues and earthy metallics can depreciate as much as an extra £1,000. One dealer would even avoid taking a Range Rover in Sahara Desert (bright metallic gold) as a trade-in. Despite

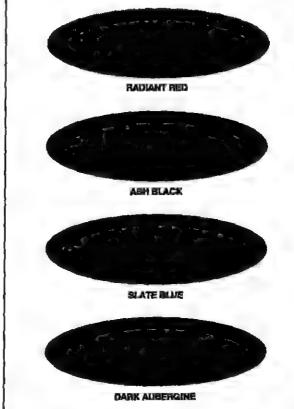
colour from its range, he felt it would be hard to sell, y used to boost interest in slow sellers and new models. When Hyundai launched the Accent in the UK. years later Accents in that colour suffer greater depreciation than the more subtle

Experts advise picking the colour that suits the car. greens are considered appropriate for a BMW. metallic silver or blue for a Mercedes-Benz and Audi, and second-hand Ford

The current colour trend for mass-produced models is metallic blues, dark greens, burgundies and silvers. If you must pick a flat colour, red is the best seller, followed by blue.

Clearly the most costeffective option you can metaliic paint, its positive prices far outweighing that of options such as airbags and anti-lock brakes. Most metallic paint on a new car. £500 more than an identical model in a flat colour





Ten cars and their best colours: Alfa Romeo Spider - Alfa Red, Proteo Red; Audi A4 — Aluminium Silver, Emerald Green: Ford Mondeo — Slate Blue, Nouveau Red; Jaguar XJo Ice Blue, Sherwood Green; Land Rover Discovery —
 Niagara Green, Epsom Green; Mazda MX-5 — Classic Red. British Racing Green; Mercedes C-class - Brilliant Silver, Azurite Blue; Porsche 911 - Midnight Blue, Polar Silver, Rover 200 - Nightfire Red, British Racing Green; Volkswagen Polo Dragon Green, Diamond Black.

■ Ten colours that lose money: Ford Probe — Applemist; Volkswagen Polo — Apricot; Ford Mondeo — Si Citrine Yellow; Fiat Punto - Exploit Yellow: Seat Ibiza/Cordoba - Kiwi Yellow; Nissan Primera — Linden Green; Vauxhall Calibra — Pineapple Yellow; Range Rover — Sahara Desert; Hyundai Accent — Scarlet Red: Jaguar XJR — Turquoise.

A study in scarlet vision

My husband and I are about to change our car and I know we will end up having the same old argument

Well, it is usually improdent to inter-Mett, it is usually improved the fere between husband and wife ... is there a serious point here?

My busband is a bit of a fuddy-duddy and, like Henry Ford, thinks I should be happy with every colour available as long as it is black. I would like a cheerful red for a change. Isn't black harder to see on the road?

Actually, anecdotal evidence suggests Actually, anecuous evinence in more that green cars are involved in more accidents than those of any other colour. But black is unlucky when it comes to their,

Really? You see, my husband is not as young as he was and I was more worried that he would not be seen as clearly as he might. I didn't realise that colour could affect theft.

It appears to. The chance of having that one in 14 older your car stoken or broken into is 30 per reading traffic signs.

DR DASHBOARD

cent greater if it is black, according to a survey by Admiral insurance. But that doesn't mean red is best for deterring the villains. Based on a survey of 10,000 claims. the findings showed that gold, yellow or brown cars are far less popular with thieves than other colours.

I still want to go for red, as long is it is not a magnet for joy-riders or anything like that.

Admiral's marketing manager. Kate A Armstrong says: We had expected red to attract joy-riders, so were surprised to see it was less risky than black."

So what about red being more easily seen? Any evidence to show that bright colours are safer?

What seems to be more important is What seems to be more unpositions how good your husband's eyesight is. The British Safety Council's reasearch shows that one in 14 older drivers have difficulty

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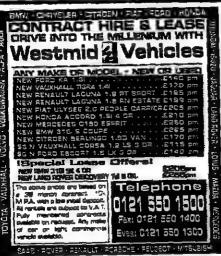
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1 1

CARMART 1: ROAD TEST SPECIAL ON VAUXHALL'S DESIGNS TO MATCH YOUR LIFESTYLE

Dramatic change to the estate we're in

Alan Copps finds a thoughtful challenge aimed at some excellent opposition

ome cars are better as estates than they are as saloons. They have to be because where once the "load lugger" was simply a variation of a basic model for people who needed more space, in the modern world of niche marketing the estate faces a tough struggle against the multi-seated people mover and the versatile off-roader.

The estate as a "driver's car" offering performance to satisfy the enthusiast as well space to carry a wardrobe is a relatively new con-cept, helped along by Volvo's success with estates in touring car racing and the sexy image of things such as the BMW Touring. In its top-of-the-range Vectra Sri estate with its lively 2-litre engine Vauxhall has not only brought the idea to a more affordable part of the market but wrought a great improvement in the car itself.

In the past few years the medium sector of the market, the mainstay of the company car driver, has seen an extraordinarily good series of models emerge from major manufacturers.

Ford's Mondeo, much trumpeted as the "world car", led the way. The highly-praised Peugeor 406 upped the ante and the Vectra showed just how hard the giants of the business were trying in this sector. The Vectra is certainly a good car, but its most direct competitors are excellent As a hatchback or saloon it doesn't other two, its cabin feels more cramped and its ride a bit lumpy.

But in its estate version the car feels quite different, both from the driver's and the passenger's point of view. Extra space at the rear gives an impression of more space throughout. In fact, although the cabin and controls and especially the seats have been improved. physical space is the same as in the

ROADTEST (

saloon version. But in these things, no matter how deep the marketing men delve into their dictionaries of superlatives, the driver's impression is a great deal more significant than any measurements.

More importantly, especially for passengers, the estate features a new multi-link rear suspension mounted on a subframe completely separate from the main structure of the car and is insulated from it by four large bushes. This matches the arrangement at the front end, where engine, front suspension and steering also have their own subframe. One aim of this change, together with im-proved noise damping, was to reduce the amount of "booming" and vibration which so often reverberates through the wide open spaces of an estate car. But with the sophisticated linkage of the suspension what it also does is to immeasurably improve ride and

To make sure this improvement is felt at all times, and to ensure good grip for the driven front wheels regardless of load at the rear, there is also the option of automatic self-levelling suspension which counteracts changes in handling and attitude and makes it innecessary to adjust headlights when transporting heavy loads.

- All versions come with a load though at first an irritation when looking in the rear-view mirror, has proved its worth protecting occupants in crash tests. The redesigned seats are a big step forward in comfort and the adjustable steering column makes finding a comfortable position much easier.

All this makes the SRi an unexpected pleasure to drive. The steering is precise, handling pre-



Vectra estate: not a world beater on space, but in every other respect on a par with its competition, giving immeasurably improved ride and comfort over the saloon version

dictable and grip during the snowy weather was exceptional, helped by the anti-lock brakes and the traction control system surprisingly fitted as standard in the 2-litre and 2.5-litre V6 engined versions.

The traction control operates on both the engine management computer and directly on the brakes to prevent wheelspin. Its action is entirely automatic, but a dashboard tell-tale lets the driver know when it is in action. On icy roads even driving in what felt like the gentlest way it was instructive tonotice just how frequently the TC o our easu nion in extreme circumstances could its effect be felt through the controls. To find such a useful safety device on such a popular car shows how much thought went in to the Vectra

This car cannot justify the usual estate-style claims about a worldbeating load space. But in every other respect it puts the Vectra on a par with its competition.

estate's design.

Packed with extras for all occasions

1F YOU are aged 40 or thereabouts, married, have children. and are prepared to spend that little bit extra for a more powerful engine and higher equipment levels, then Vauxhall believes its Vectra Estate is the car for you, writes Vaughan Freeman.

Despite competition from the multi-purpose people movers which in America have decimated sales in the estate car sector, and off-road cars, the humble estate is staging a sales revival.

Even Vauxhall might admit that this rise is driven as much by the carmaker's success in repackaging its estates as "must-have" life-style accessories rather than less-than-glamorous load-luggers. Estates now account for around 10 per cent of all car sales, compared to just over 7 per cent a decade

ROADTEST 2

ago, and the forecast is that the total will rise to 15 per cent of the new car market by 2000.

Vauxhali, whose Luton plant is the sole source of the Vectra estate for the whole of Europe, says: "The image of the estate car as a utility vehicle has undergone a dramatic change. The vehicle for everyday use, longdistance travel, and for rec reation." Which is why Vauxhall has ended a 10-year absence from the midsize estate sector.

Vauxhall's own research shows that customers for mid-size estates are attracted more by the car's looks than by its practicality. As many as a third of estate buyers say that the car's looks are the

nost important to them, followed by interior space (25 per cent) and huggage capacity (15 per cent).
This is reflected in the range of

Activity Pack options on offer with the estate. For the surfing enthusiast there is the lockable roof-rack plus surfboard carrier, a roof-mounted boat carrier for the maritime fan. and even a lockable roof-rack base plus ski rack for those planning to take their Vectra include the Sportsbody Pack, the Sports Chassis Pack, the travel Pack with aerodynamically shaped roof-top Sportbox, and the Towing Pack. The Vectra estate is for drivers who take their time off

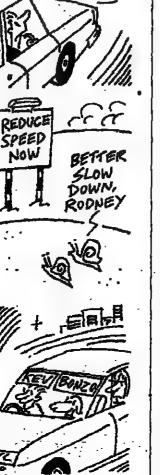
very seriously indeed. The CDX is loaded with equipment, including safety-oriented items such as anti-lock braking. traction control, air conditioning.

pollen filter, and — essential for any estate - automatic selflevelling. Cup holders are hidden by wooden panels and offer fascinating and cheap entertainment, unfolding via an incredibly

complex array of hinges.
For Vauxhall, the Vectra estate's main target is the estate version of the rival Ford Mondeo, and to that end a confusing 23 versions are being offered. Why so many? Stuart Harris, Vauxhall team marketing manager, says: "We considered our customers very carefully. This means that there is a tremendous variety of models and, importantly, our customers will not have to compromise on style just because they need a larger load area."

It also means Vauxhall is able to offer the Vectra estate from £13,470 up to £22,270.

CAR THONS





No problems: Valerie Elliott loads in her mother's wheelchair without having to struggle over a tailgate lip Easy rider that

any years ago, when Nissans Were still called Datsun and estates had wooden strips, my wife, Valerie, fell in love with a Sunny, writes Harvey Elliott.

It was, she said, the only car that enabled her to slide heavy shopping straight on to the flat platform, could carry football-muddy schoolboys and yet was light to handle, small enough to manouevre into the rightest

space and economical. But the old reliable Datsun estate was made redundant in favour of new, bigger, more macho versions, some of which we tried without too much enthusiasm. We also tried the uniquitous hatchback - and came to hate the awful lip that forced anyone loading through the rear hatch and tailgate to lift heavy goods over it, far too high for their own good.

carries it off

When my mother-in-law came to live in a "granny annexe" and needed to be manhandled into and out of the passenger seat and her wheelchair loaded into the back the need for another genuine estate became paramount.

Search as we could, we failed to find anything that was small, economical, comfortable and yet sturdy enough. There were huge tanks of the sort favoured by the parents of public schoolboys and girls from the Home Counties. We even found the odd small estate with a tailgate without that awful lip, but in nearly every

ROADTEST 3

case it seemed they were under-powered or had such wafer-thin bodywork that I could not feel safe driving them. Then came the Vauxhali Vectra estate.

My week's testing did not begin well. The car came in the diesel version and I feared noise, pollution and slow acceleration response. And, as I took the handbrake off, it was much too close to the centre armrest for comfort.

But within minutes I was sold. The diesel, admittedly noisy at first, soon quietened as the engine warmed up. The acceleration on the moturway was "get-out of trou-ble" fast and the lay-out and feel of the driving seat excellent.

But would it pass the wheelchair and shopping test? It sailed through with flying colours as the wheelchair was bundled in with hardly a murmur of protest and heavy boxes of shopping were slid effortlessly on to the wide load-bearing floor. The fuel tank is vast and

the economy astonishing. In over 500 miles both in town and on the motorways I was getting over 60mpg; the official figure is 67.3mpg at a constant 56mph.

Perhaps because of the size of the fuel tank, there is a disconcerting banging and sloshing when braking and stopping at traffic lights as the fuel washes around the tank, But no car is perfect.

VECTRA ESTATE

Four-cylinder, 16valve, 1.8-litre produces 1156hp at 5400rpm. Four-cylinder lovalve, 2-litre produces 136bhp at 5600rpm. Vo 2.5-litre produces 169bhp at 5800rpm. turbocharged, directinjection diesel produces 82bhp at 4300rpm.

Transmission: Fivespeed manual or fourspeed automatic with fuel-saving Neutral Control. Front wheel

Performance: 1.8-litre: Max speed 121mph, 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds. Two-litre: Max speed 128mph, 0-60mph in 10 seconds. Diesel: Max speed 105mph, 0-60mph in 16 seconds.

143mph. 0-60mph in 8.5

seconds. Economy: 1.8-litre: Urban 23.5mpg, extra-urban 42.8mpg. combined 32.8mpg.

V6: Max speed

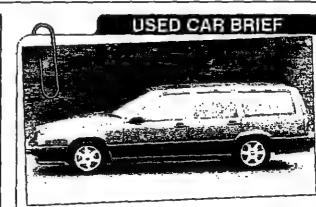
Two-litre: Urban 22.8mpg, extra-urban 40.9mpg, combined 3).7mpg. Diesel: Urban 33.6mpg. extra-urban

53.3mpg, combined 44.Impg. V6: Urban 19.9mpg, extra-urban 34.9mpg. combined 27.4mpg.

Equipment: (CDX) anti-lock braking, power steering, traction control, air conditioning, automatic selflevelling, trip computer. adjustable steering column, remote control central locking and engine immobiliser.

Prices: £13,470 to £22,270.

TrafficMaster.



VOLVO RSO ESTATE NOLVO 850 ESTATE
In my first outing in a Volvo 850 Estate a curious London motorcycle
policeman stopped me to chat about the car's good looks. The 850
enabled the words Volvo, style and fun to appear, without from, in the
same sentence, Launched as a saloon in 1992, the five-door estate
arrived a year latter. Available with 2 and 2.5-litre petrol and 2.5-litre
turbodlead engines, just-launched All Wheel Drive, and the storming
2.3-litre turbocharged petrol 75.

GOOD NEWS: range of five-cylinder engines developed by Porache, and the chassis, which slab-sided from some angles.
Interior is dated, featuring the Volvo uses front-wheel-drive and is tuggage space than rivels like Scorpio. Upright styling means passenger space is plentiful.

LOOK FOR: The more recent lurbo-diesel, developed by Audi, gives extraordinary illegal speeds, the T5 and special edition T5 R are way too tast. The 850 range is relatively new so all examples should be immaculate. Any fitted with a towbar must be performance with 140bhp, though these are relatively rare and prices reflect this. Among the petrol cars the 2-litre offers probably more than anough performance for the average volvo driver.

checked to ensure transmission and rear suspension is in lip-top shape and has not been abused hauling huge trailers or horseboxes. When it comes to safety big Volvos, like the classroom

Insurance (0800
444777) on a 2.5-litre
1992 L-reg Volvo 850
Estate costs a 55-year-old
professional, male or temale, living swot, always get top marks, scoring above average in the Department of Transport safety ratings. There is even an all-wheel-drive version for those in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £225 a year fully who want extra grip in icy or wet conditions. Power steering, anti-lock brakes, and on later

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): clutch assembly £230, full exhaust £300;

models an airbag, are all standard.

comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £2,002, and a similar female pays £1,407. Expect to pey £11,800 for a 1993 K-reg SE 2-litre 20valvo 950 fivedoor estate, £14,000 for a 1993 L-reg 2.5-titre SE 10valve, £18,000 for a 1994 L-reg T5 Turbo, £16,800 for a 1994 M-reg GLT

2-litre 20valve, and £19,000 for a 1994 M-reg T5 GLE.

Cover from AA

Does not haul as much cargo as the bagger Volvo 700 and 900 Senes. Still looks a mile

Unless you really want to cart your hay bales, children and labradors at lundly

reference for angular edges han the more modern flowing

OVERALL: Volvo even raced their 850 estate in the British Touring Car Championsips, though with a fercety uprated 300bhp engine. The 850 has single-handedly revolutionised the Volvo image. A fine people and load carrier, not as cathedral-like inside as the big Volvos, but capacious enough. It is solid, durable, and a good tooker, especially from behind. Prices can be high from dealers, though they offer the widest choice.

Strange, but true ... Alan Copps looks at some amazing medal winners in Toyota's Idea Olympics

Land of the driving fun

spare time? Most of them, it seems, design and build vehicles. This confirmation of everything we know about the Japanese work ethic is celebrated every year by what the company calls its "Idea Olympics".

The results range from concepts that might make rival designers scratch their heads and say: "Why didn't we think of that?" to zany creations which make the rest us wonder how much we understand the Japanese sense of humour.

The latest competition to design

des" attracted 1,322 entrants from the Toyota Engineering Society, a sort of out-of-hours think-tank dedicated to proving that engineering can be fun. It's encouraged by the company to develop technical skills and exchange imaginative ideas. How many of its conclusions go into cars for the road is a closely guarded secret.

The prizes, of course, are noth-

purely for the honour of winning." said a Toyota official. Top award, the Grand Prize in this the 21st idea Olympics, went to the Z-Board: the ultimate skateboard, perhaps a little higher than most of us might like, but powered by a pollution-free spiral spring mecha-nism operated by a tilting move-ment. It also features four-wheel steering. Is this the answer to the

little tame, then there's the Parent. and Child Giraffe, which attracted a special award from the chief judge. Based on a real Toyota vehicle the device gives a relaxing tree-top view by raising the driv er's seat six metres through the with his head in the clouds? An integrated umbrella provides wea-

Of course, if you have a head for ther protection and the whole heights and feel the Z-Board is a cusemble comes with a warning

that it should not be used while the

car is in motion.

Perhaps the most practical idea is the Bike Cycle which has interchangeable engines, one for qualified adults or a smaller one for children. The Hand Boy moves along by bending its fingers through a double four-joint mech--- which, according to my

better off than the real thing. It also comes with built-in amosement for the kids: if you're stock in a jam it can play that old "rock,"

issors, paper" game. The QT Cart relies on a constant speed rotating roller transaxle and is operated by a single lever, while the climbing Walcar is said to mimic the movements of animals. A double front axle allows the

front wheels to act independently when walking or climbing, but

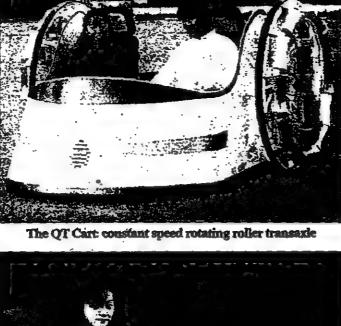
when walking or camong but when running it behaves just like any other four-wheel buggy.

What happens to all these wonderful vehicles after the judging is a bit of a mystery. I think some may go into the Toyota museum. Others may be taken apart to the hits can be used in apart so the bits can be used in other experiments," said the tady in Toyota's press office.

But need time you read a piece here or anywhere else about how boring Japanese cars are, remember the idea Olympics. Then see if you can detect any "Giraffe" influence in the cabin of your Carina or Corolla.



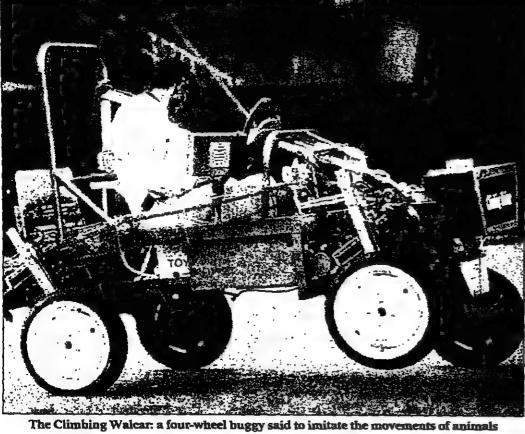
The Z-Board, powered by a pollution-free spiral spring mechanism

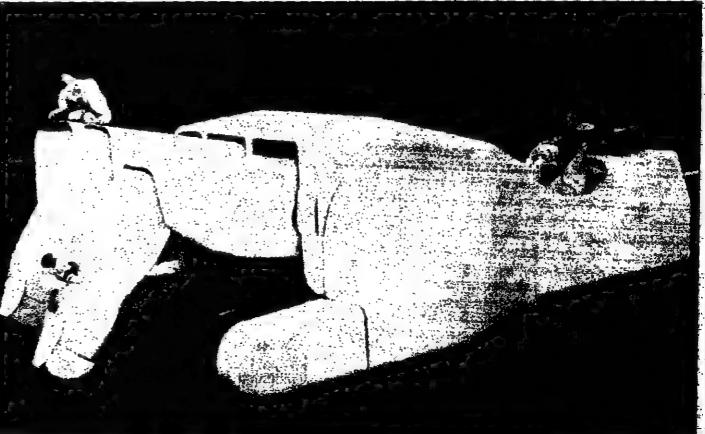


Bike Cycle: one engine for qualified adults, one for children



Parent and Child Giraffie based on a real Toyota, with the driver six metres above the roof





Hand-Boy: bends its fingers through a "double four-joint mechanism", which makes it one joint better off than the real timing

Hyundai creates a whole new concept of taking the car out for a spin

washing machine. That's what the new Hyundai Accent MVI Coupé reminds me of. A functional and simple-to-use household item, with all its buttons and controls in the right places, doing exactly what the manufacturer says they should. Nothing offends, nothing surprises; and, despite being the sporty version of Europe's top-selling Korean car, that's about as exciting as

Partie Care

Hyundai motoring gets. Just as ordinary white goods look at home in the kitchen, an Accent Coupé will look fine on the drive. But if a Mercedes-Benz Coupé is the Aga of domestic garages, then this Hyundai is in the realms of a Bendix washerdryer. A reliable household appliance you

can take for granted, but not something you brag about. Cars as white goods isn't a new idea, but it is increasingly becoming the domain of the Koreans Hyundai and Dae-

woo have become household names, challenging the popularity of functional and reliable Japanese cars. There's no criticism hidden

in calling these cars white goods - many people think such an approach is the future of motoring. What you lose in individuality or entertainment, you gain in reliability and practicality - which is exactly what you want from household appliances.

Daewoo dealerships bear out the feeling of cars as white goods by imitating the experience of shopping at an Argos

warehouse. Hyundai maintains a more traditional approach to selling cars, with 150 dealers in the UK, who sold nearly 11,000 Accent hatchbacks and 19,000 cars overall last year.

The Hyundal Accent MVi Coupe which has just gone on sale - not to be confused with the sexy-looking Hyundai Coupé launched last year — is a three-door version of the fivedoor Accent hatchback. The MVi badge indicates the new multi-valve, four-valves per cylinder 1.5-litre engine (the other 1.5 and 1.3 engines in the range are three-valves per

machine — it does the job, but would you boast about it?

cylinder). The manufacturer claims 18 per cent more cleaning power. er, sorry, more power, thanks to the extra valves. The respeciable performance bears witness to that, managing a top speed of 112mph and a 0-60mph sprint time of 11.2 seconds, which makes overtaking swifter and safer.

It's a comfortable but unre-

markable experience to drive

the Accent MVi. I've already foreotten what the steering was like, which means it must have been light, satisfactorily responsive and reasonably

do remember that its turning circle was tight enough L to make it around a miniroundabout with one turn all that really matters in day-to-day driving. Similarly, the pedals did their job without causing concern — not too stiff, not too light — and the brakes havled the car to a standstill without raising an eyebrow. The gearshift is slightly more memorable because of its long. notchy movement between each gate, but that's hardly likely to spoil your day.

The Coupe's interior is also

pleasingly unobtrusive. There

The Accent, says Helen Mound, is on being like a washing is nothing worse than an unremarkable car that tries to compensate for its lack of distinction by assaulting your eyes with a blaze of wacky seat trims and tacky colour-coded carpets and plastics. Instead the Accent is trimmed with a little colour in its fabrics and smart but inexpensive-looking black plastics.

Outside the MVi Coupé makes its extra performance ability known with flared sills and a deeper bumper front and reer with built-in foglights. The only let down is the ten-spoke alloy wheels, which were designed to look sporty but are more successful at looking twee.

Hyundai hopes customers will include "style-conscious younger women", a wish that appears to be at least partly well founded. Prior to the launch of the Accent in 1995, Hyundai drivers were aged over 50 on average, last year the age profile dropped to 45.

HYUNDAI ACCENT: 15 COUPE Engine: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1495cc producing 98bhp at 5,900 rpm. Performance: Top speed, 112mph; 0-60mph, Il 2 seconds. Reconomy: Urban 26.6mpg, entra urban 42.8mpg, combined 34.9mpg.

Equipment Power steering radio cas-sens stereo and four speakers, electric front windows, married suproof, remote that gate and fuel filler release. Optional Extras: Metallic paint £199, mica paint £239, Air conditioning £1,270.



Hyundai Accent MVi Coupe: what you lose in individuality, you gain in reliability

Section 18 MERCEDES GENERAL 500 SI. 32 valve, 91 model in stiree, tempers & sichts in Bell colone, dar bise hide, over sense, (2) Muhiplay or, crosse, electric memory sense, fully boated, 35,000 miles, Poll MI S.N. Stand are Merceries idente. 300SL 300TE Take it from Quentin Willson of the BBC's Top Gear programme... Auto (24v), 1991 H reg, full 24v, 93 K., 9,800 miles, PMBSH, red with cream leather, twin air bags, rea leats & Sony CD. 1 previou owner. £45,950 ono. Quality... CD stack, senson costal L "THERE'S NO SMARTER SAC Bland flow Assertion Marrie, This car is in showncome condition, only people necking the best need spay, EA4550 TEL: 01707 325564 0831 8472A4 \$181 530 3996 Recent Mesc, service coating 12.270, only 2 owners from new with Mesc history, £15,000. only people staking the best bard only people staking the best bard and apply, £44,936
TEL: 61707 325569 6631 862244 WAY TO BUY" Tel: 0161 443 1101 or tay over & W/E 0181 201755 tay 0171 4376162 Quentin Willson, "Top Gear", December 1996. Choice... Over 1500 cars - All P. N & M Reg Mercedes E200 If you're looking for the best choice of low mileage, nearly new cars in the UK - many still covered by the 1500 SL 300SE manufacturer's warranty, and all at thousands of pounds less than the new list prices - look no further than the Auto **OWNERS** 95. Met gro, cream int, 1 Value... Car Supermarket, Our massive choice of around 1500 top-quality vehicles include BMW, Mercedus, Saab and 9) Met, blue, 58k injs; Chairman's car, immaculate. 95 N. Michight blue, 14k min. /rf. elec windows; scarco, alloy alarm & mmob. COMPRESSIVE INCOMES careful our, FSH, low most other top marques, plus a huge selection of superb performance, specialist and 4 wheel drive vehicles. 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CARMART 2: DRY ICE, DISCO AND VIDEO SCREENS - BRITAIN'S FOREC



With a massive choice of vehicles, supermarkets located near major motorways will offer prices for new and used cars well below traditional outlets — and buyers will not have to shop around to compare the range of what's on offer

coming disco music, swirling white clouds of dry ice, and a fullblown mock-up of a new face of car selling

The GTi Centre in Huddersfield claims to be Britain's first 'themed" showroom, where making it a place to go, to enjoy, and to be seen at, as well as a place for swapping cash for wheeled metal.

The face of car showrooms and forecourts is changing as new and used car outlets big and small try new ways to woo customers. Instead of haggle and hassle, the anxiety of choosing the right car, and the fret and fear of negotiating the right deal, the man behind the GTi Centre, Paul Beswick, has invested £1.3million in taking a Disneyworld-style approach nimed at relaxing and entertaining would-be buyers.

At the other extreme, a string of up to half-a-dozen Car Supermarket megastores is set to spread across the nation, each featuring up to 2.000 second-hand cars up to four years old, with the pledge that customers will never see a salesman until they are ready to part with their cash.

As well as the 1950s diner. Beswick's GTi Centre is crammed with motoring memorabilia such as signs, petrol pumps and traffic lights. Sporting souvenirs include helmets and racing suits worn by the likes of Damon Hill. Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell. There is a wall of nine video screens, a blaring disco system, and a single-seat rac-

ing car hangs from the ceiling.

I wanted to bring a bit more fun into the industry I suppose, so we built a themed garage using all sorts of automotive memorabilia featuring racing themes." BesVaughan Freeman looks at the new-style showrooms

Variations on a theme of selling motors

wick says. "The car sales sector seemed to have stagnated a bit and this was my way of shaking things up." Razzmatazz alone is not

enough to sell cars. Beswick is happy to concede that the cars he sells "might not always be the cheapest, but they are guaranteed to be the best". They are backed by a complete package aimed at giving cus-romers peace of mind, including 12 months MoT. a comprehensive warranty of up to 36 months, insurance advice, full valet and a check on whether the vehicle has been stolen or crashed in the past.

Full mechanical back-up is provided with a rolling road technical centre and workshop. Selling and tuning performance cars is just part of the deal. Beswick's GTi Centre sells everything from branded engine oil, to caps, key fobs, and leisure wear.

We have set out to create the Number One performance car superstore, and to make it fun." Beswick says, "There are no suits, and no ties. Everything is very relaxed so that customers are not intimidated.

"We could have built a smaller unit, and filled it with GTis, laid the forecourt with tarmac and just sold cars. We decided to do something a bit different and more interesting. more like a nightclub.

The next stage is to use the Centre as a host venue where performance car enthusiasts

BUYERS' GUIDE

 Know just what kind of car you want when you set out. Don't get carried away: dream cars rarely

come second-hand. Don't buy without a test drive: 20 minutes at the wheel is worth

hours on the forecourt.

• Check the paperwork: a £28.50 vehicle identity check from HPI (01722 422422) could

save a lot of trouble. Don't accept the first price quoted: haggle

or shop around.

can congregate every fortnight to show off their cars, swap stories, and enjoy a meal. It is hoped that first to take advantage of the Centre's "Show Off Cruises" will be the VW Owners Club in February. The Car Supermarket in

Cannock, Staffordshire, takes a very different approach. Last year the six-acre site sold an extraordinary 20,000 vehicles, and is now being expanded to 12 acres. A similar-sized outlet will open in Northampton in the summer, with long-term plans for up to 10 Car Supermarket megastores nationally selling around 200,000 used cars a year.

Each Supermarket will be sited within a few miles of a major motorway to make ac-cess as easy as possible, and feature everything from a cafeteria to a creche. Car Supermarkets chief exec-

utive Peter King says that huge volumes enable his sites to sell cars up to two years old for an average \$1,000 cheaper than high street showrooms, and around £4,000 cheaper than the same car might cost new.

If the scale of the operation

might seem daunting and un-friendly, public reaction says King, indicates otherwise: "Since we opened the Cannock site five years ago, all the evidence is that the car-buying public is happy to follow the hypermarket retailing trend already set by warehouse outinstance, computers, office

goods or white goods." Such huge outlets enable customers to see every car on their shopping list without driving from forecourt to forecourt, showroom to showroom. King says: "The Car Supermarket takes the pressure off the consumer having to shop around different forecourts, each one with only a restricted choice. The other important element is that this really does respond to con-

ustomers can simply browse among the cars without being approached by a member of sales staff. Only if they see a car they like, and then actively seek out one of the 20-strong staff, do things go further.

sumer demand.

The price on the car windscreen is the price paid, and there is no haggling. Similarly with part exchanges, the ball park offer for the customer's trade-in car is set using the independent CAP Black Book price guide via computer screen, and is finalised once the Supermarket's used car ssors have inspected the

trade-in vehicle.

King says: "The impact of what we do is best indicated by the fact that we have been so successful. Out of the 3,000 people who visit our site each week, one in ten buys a car. That compares to an average conversion rate of one in 30 elsewhere in the trade."

HOW TO GET THE BEST PRICE WHEN YOU SELL

'Consider

what can

turn a

used car

of used cars a year. On a busy day he sells 60 cars, and as many as 5,000 vehicles anually. He knows what makes a car sell while others gather dust on the forecourt. Brain is used vehicle marketing director with Fleet Management Services which runs a fleet of 14,000 cars for customers. Each year about a third come up for sale and he must ensure they attract the best possible price. He believes the private motorist should think more like a professional car dealer to cut the imancial damage done by vehicle

depreciation, the hidden menace that is the biggest cost to any motorist. People buy a new car to enjoy it now." he says. They don't look three years down the

line in the same way that a professional buyer would. If I were a private person buying a car, I would look at a few trends in motoring first. I would take note of the fact that in the past few years air-conditioning has be-come the in word. In three years cars without it will be thought of

as very base models.

"Anti-lock brakes are also a must. Apart from the fact that they pay for themselves the first time they save your life, they add to the value of the car. Power steering too is important. I stand on auction floors day after day and see dealers walk up to cars, stick

their arm through the window and move the steering wheel to see if it has power steering. If it doesn't, they walk away or pay less for it. "Colour is a serious issue too. In the trade we talk of 'doom blue' - dark blues which rob a car of value. Dark green too is bad news. Bright red is still well received, and there are new colours now like bright green metallics which could be very, very sought

after in three years. "If I was a private buyer looking for an executive car I would go nowhere near one with a pudding stick — a manual. Such cars must have automatic transmission or they will not sell second-hand.

"Whatever car you buy, get an alarm and immobiliser. If the car doesn't come with one, get it fitted the day after you take delivery." and look after it, will make a huge difference on its used value says Brain. Before you even get in he says, fit floor mats: "Tread on a car's carpets just once and you have knackered them and they will never look the same". Never smoke in the car either, he says. The near-paranoid anti-smoking fever means that a car that smells of cigarette smoke — a smell that can never be got rid of -- will be worth a lot less than a non-smoker's car.

Caring for the car is vital too: "I cannot stress enough the value of a fully stamped service history book. I sell thousands of cars a year, and make sure every one has a full service history which gives comfort and confidence to the person who buys it. It also

makes it easier for the buyer to get finance on the car since firms are happier arranging finance on a car with a full service history."

Tending to little bumps and car. park surapes the day they happen, and replacing wheel trims as soon as they are lost, are also key elements, he says: "Once a car starts to look a little bit fired, people lose respect for it and are not so careful with it."

buyer off' When selling, the car must be pristine. Buyers know that a dirty car is either unloved or that the dirt is hiding paint blemishes or accident damage and will bid accordingly. For a dealer, buying a dirty car means he will have to spend time and

money getting it ready for resale:
"When you come to sell, clean the car like there's no tomorrow." Brain says. "We talk about cleaning money into a car, and it's perfectly true."

re there features that will actively A deter would be buyers? John High-field, marketing director of the Car Shop which advertises used cars on interactive TV and the Internet, says: "Consumers who are buying with a view to sell should also consider what can burn a used car buyer off. Cars with boy racer strips, sporty features such as an attached spoiler, and ostentatious colours all turn peoples' heads away from the car.

Priceless source

■ NEW CAR sales in 1907 are likely to exceed 2.1 million, the third highest on record, according to Glass's Guide, one of two pockersized volumes which the men in the motor trade refer to when they quote the book

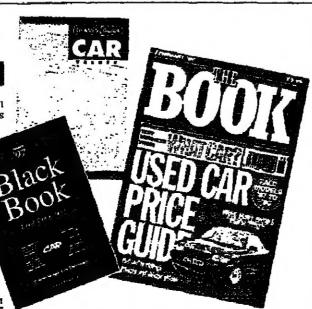
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value" of a used car. The best year for new car sales in Britain was 1989 when 2,300.944 were sold. The following year sales reached 2,215,574. While such figures are made public, the real information in Glass's and its rival, the CAP Black Book, is closely guarded by the trade. The books give guide prices for all used cars. detailing minor changes and variations by the month. But

SPARE PARTS

a new publication which appeared last year means that second-hand car buyers can go into the market armed with similar information. Produced by the publishers of What Car? magazine The Book, Used Car Price Guide, sets out in the same way prices for both private and dealer sales. It also has road test information and reliability ratings for each car.

The Book is available from newsagents and bookstores 52.95 Capping the Glass: the Book of facts for all drivers



Carlton athletic

PROOF of the strength of the Vauxhall Carlton (1982-1993) came when it was chosen by the police to cover massive mileages, many at high speed, round-the-clock as a motorway patrol car, reports CAP Black Book, making it a robust buy used.

The straightforward mechanics of the car are a huge plus, as this keeps maintenance costs low. For the DIY motorist who likes to tinker, the Carlton is accessible and not too hi-tech, Vaughan Freeman writes.

A downside is its image. Caravanners soon cottoned on to its huge towing power and carrying ability, and for all its tough and robust

FORECOURT

strengths, the Carlton has always been considered relatively unrefined. Best deal is the 2.0i CDX

auto estate. Expect to pay around £6,000 for a 1990 Hreg with average mileage. The Carlton is a big car, so avoid the underpowered LSlitre automatics, and any car that has had a hammering in a previous life as a taxi. Watch out for oil leaks, noisy camshafts and whining pow-

er steering pumps. The Seat Ibiza (1987-92) is also practical and simple to maintain, mexpensive to buy and handsome. Unfortu-



Carlton: relatively unrefined, but easy to maintain

nately it is also filmsily-built. whacky dashboard. The Ibiza is not liked in the trade because of its poor build quality, so trade in prices for owners who are selling can be very depressing.

Avoid any examples that are not in absolutely perfect

condition, and that lack a has poor used values and a full service history. Best buy is the 1.5 GLX five door. Expect to pay around £3,000 for a 1992 K-reg car with average miles, and best to get an AA or RAC engineer's inspection to ensure the car is sound before handing over any money.

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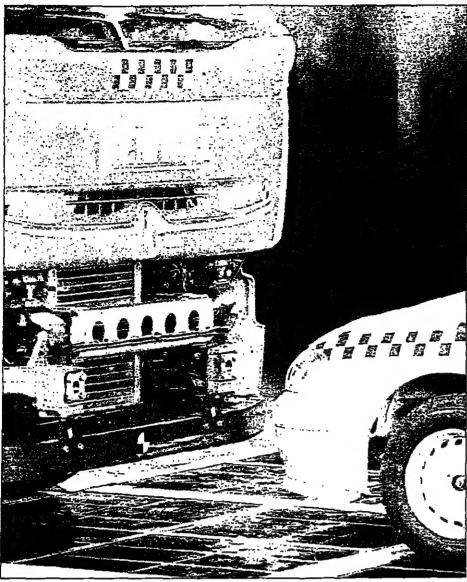
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THE impetus to make safety rather than performance the main selling point for modern vehicedes-Benz, which has developed a "brainy brake" system to radically reduce stopping distances in an emergency. The Advanced Brake Assist System has been shown to cut the braking distance of a car travelling on a dry road at 62mph from 239ft to just 131ft. It is being introduced at no extra cost on Mercedes cars.

Engineers found that, even in an emergency, drivers do not exert maximum braking pressure and that in an accident 99 per cent are either too

light on the brakes or only apply full braking pressure too late. Brake Assist's electronic sensors constantly monitor the speed at which the brake pedal is applied. The system's computer brain learns driver's normal brake pedal reactions. When the pedal is applied much faster than usual, the system registers this as an emergency and overrides the driver's braking foot via a pedal booster to exert 100



When the Megane was hurled at 40mph straight at the front of Renault Premium truck . . .

mashing head-on into sensibilities, watching the real a 16-ton truck must every car driver's list of worst motoring nightmares. a seemingly sure route to automotive oblivion. Across Europe every year almost 2.000 people die in such onesided accidents, writes Vaughan Freeman.

While the idea of such a smash might appeal to fans of the controversial J.G. Ballard

thing "in the metal" comes as a shocking blow to all the senses. Even when the accident is a life-size laboratory experiment, the doomed farnily of three a trio of computerlinked crash dummies, and the "road" the Renault heavy commercial vehicle testing centre near Paris, the impact is no less phenomenal.

Watched by cameras capable of taking 1,000 pictures a

"mummy" and "daddy" dummies each worth £40,000 on board, plus "baby" dummy in the rear child seat, was fired at 40mph head on into a partially-loaded rigid-bodied Renault Premium truck weighing a total of 16 tons.

The noise is shattering, massive bang and that sickening screech of metal being instantaneously reshaped that turns the stomach to water. While the truck was eased

per cent brake pressure in a fraction of a second. destroyed and bumper twisted, the whole rear end of the

Megane flew up into the air.

Then the entire car leapt up

sideways and back, the front

completely destroyed. Only a few years ago such a collision would have meant certain death for everybody in the saloon. Yet computer readings of the stresses and strains suffered by the car's three occupants showed that not only would they have lived,



... the sickening impact turned the stomach to water. But the car did not become fatally trapped under the truck's bumper

Their survival was due to a combination of Megane's programmed restraint system, inciuding airbags and seat pretensioners, as well as the car's ability to collapse and deform on impact, so progressively absorbing violent crash energy, instead of passing it on directly to the car occupants,

with fatal results. However, crucial to their survival is a technical breakthrough by Renault that the safety-conscious French firm all heavy commercial vehicles sold across Europe and which, the company says, could save close to 600 lives a year.

The problem with head-on collisions between trucks and cars is three-fold. First, the truck can be up to 50 times heavier than a saloon and on impact that massive energy must be absorbed and dissinated. Not much can be done about that, other than making 16-ton family saloons to help them punch their weight. But the two other key elemaking the front of trucks deformable, rather than a metal wall on wheels, so that it absorbs energy, and by delethal habit of cars "underrunning" and wedging them-selves beneath the front bumper of the truck, lives can he saved and lorries made more "smash friendly".

ments in such collisions can be

addressed, says Renault, By

The Renault answer is the clumsily titled Front Underbeam made of high-yield strength steel which, bolted immediately under the truck's front bumper, deforms on impact and also stops the car under-running. Instead, it can bounce away.

Across Europe, some 4,200 people a year die in crashes cars and heavy trucks, 1,900 of them in headon collisions. A third of those could be prevented if the under-run prevention technology were to be generally adopted says Renault.

The redesign of the front of the truck to absorb up to 20 per cent of the crash energy, and to prevent cars diving under the front of it, has measurable effects says Vehicles and Trucks director Philippe

The conclusions of this test show that the occupants of the Megane, projected at 65kph against a Premium equipped with the Front Underrun Prevention System, have a survival probability in the order of

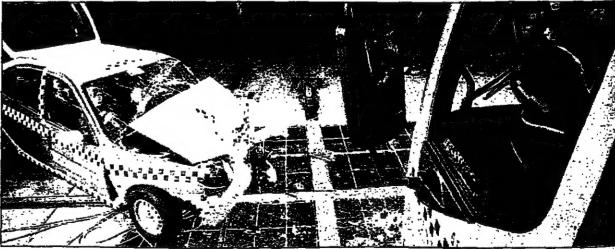
does not come tag. At present the under-run prevention system is offered as an option costing up to £500, but Renault says such devices, like seatblets should be enforced by legislation with the cost borne by all manufacturers equally, rather than asking consumers to pay for greater safety.

The catchword for Renault "co-habitation", the ability of cars, vans and heavy trucks to be designed so that, when inevitably they do crash, injuries are kept to a minimum. Engineering director Philippe Ventre says: "We believe the safety improvements should be imposed by legislation, but that takes time, like the airbag. which is favoured but has not

been enforced by law. "Safety is not about marketing scoops. All manufacturers should be committed to the same levels of safety in their

For Brossette the ideal would be for manufacturers to get together to share ideas and technology, as Renault's car and truck divisions have done. and to build their vehicles with the effects of car-truck collisions in mind. Brossette says: "There are a

lot of people who see large vehicles as killer trucks. They think they should be taken of the road, and see only that trucks have a bad image. The idea: is to show that we can build a truck that is safer."



As the Megane bounced clear, computer analysis shows that its occupants would have escaped relatively unhuit

duce the risk of being involved in a fatal accident. A four-year study into anti-locking brake systems and driver training suggests that ABS could live up to advertising hype by halving road latalities — but first we need more driving lessons.

At the Aariste Laboratory in France, study leader Alain Priez and his five-strong team watched 67 subjects drive Renault 25 cars around a private road test circuit, claiming to examine driving skills. However each trial came to an unexpected end when a dummy car was pushed out 50 yards in front of the test vehicle as if it was travelling at an average of 64mph. The Highway Code stopping distance at this speed is 87 yards.

"While it would have been possible to avoid impact by braking and turning simultaneously, we were presenting a forced collision for most drivers," said Priez.

The team analysed the severity of collisions by examining impact speed and collision point on the stationary vehicle. "If a car impacts faster than 40mph on to the side of another car's passenger compartment, anyone seated at

Elinor Hardman on an ABS survey

A locking system we have to learn

that point in the compartment will die," said Priez. The drivers were split into four groups balanced for age; sex and driving experience. The groups used different braking systems and received

different training. Priez judged that 87 per cent experimental crashes by drivers with standard brakes would have been fatal to passengers in the dummy car. ABS saved many of these deaths", with fatality figures of 67 per cent for drivers unaware they were using ABS and 62 per cent for those knowingly using the system.

Only 36 per cent of collisions by drivers who had been given a morning's tuition on using ABS were categorised as fatal. None of the drivers using standard brakes was able completely to avoid the collision, but II per cent of those

equipped with ABS walked

sees the 30 per cent projected fatality difference between drivers trained and untrained in ABS as evidence for the importance of instruction,

uring the morning's ABS training session, not one of the drivers braked effectively to start with. All needed practice and guidance.

"Drivers are reluctant to oush their feet fully down on the brake and keep them there, especially if they know they have to turn. They are often scared of losing control and release the pedal too quickly. Unless ABS is applied forcefully and constantly it will not work to its full effect."

The study comes amid claims that ABS brakes and other car safety devices cause more accidents than they save, by giving drivers false assurance as to their abilities to

Data from the US Transport Department suggests that while ABS may have reduced pedestrian deaths by over one quarter, fatal car accidents have increased as drivers are losing control in emergences and fail to stay on the road

This may be partially explained by a study in Munich several years ago. A taxi feet in which half the cars had newly-fitted ABS brakes and half had standard brakes was put under secret observation for three years. Researchers anticipated a fall in accident rates of ABS fitted cars. To their surprise, accident rates for the two groups were stable and identical. Only driver behaviour changed, with ABS drivers going faster, making sharper turns and having more near misses. Drivers who feel safer go faster and take more risks. They are secure in the faise knowledge that they are unlikely to only

to harm. Priez admits: "We can't say ABS is really improving 50 ty. It is reducing pedestrati accidents in towns, but it seems that people are taking too many risks and failing to use the system properly in struction is needed to people they are not indest

